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BACK TO FLORIDA



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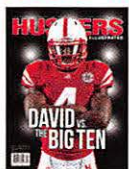
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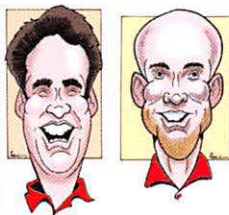
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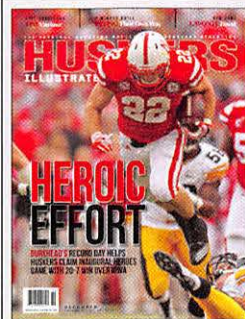
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THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK
Winning 10 games for third straight season, no small feat

2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 3	CHATTANOOGA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 40-7
SEPT. 10	FRESNOSTATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:00P.M.	W, 42-29
SEPT. 17	WASHINGTON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 51-38
SEPT. 24	@ WYOMING	LARAMIE, WYO.	6:30P.M.	W, 38-14
OCT. 1	@ WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	7:00P.M.	L, 17-48
OCT. 8	OHIO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00P.M.	W, 34-27
OCT. 22	@ MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS	2:30P.M.	W, 41-14
OCT. 29	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00A.M.	W, 24-3
NOV. 5	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	L, 25-28
NOV. 12	@ PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	11:00A.M.	W, 17-14
NOV. 19	@ MICHIGAN	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	11:00A.M.	L, 17-45
NOV. 25	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	W, 20-7
JAN. 2	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	CITRUS BOWL STADIUM	NOON	ESPN



ON THE COVER

I-back Rex Burkhead hurdles an Iowa defender during Nebraska's 20-7 win over the Hawkeyes at Memorial Stadium. The junior broke the school record with 38 carries. He racked up 160 yards in the game, despite a long run of 14 yards. He raised his season rushing total to 1,268 yards, moving up to 11th on the single-season rushing list.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 32, Issue 1, the bowl preview will be mailed Monday, Dec. 12. Check for updates at hussersillustrated.com.

WAIVING AT WAKE

Wake Forest senior forward Nikita Mescherlakov shoots a free throw at the Bob Devaney Center on Nov. 30 while the Husker student section tries to distract him. Wake Forest defeated the Huskers, 55-53.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN





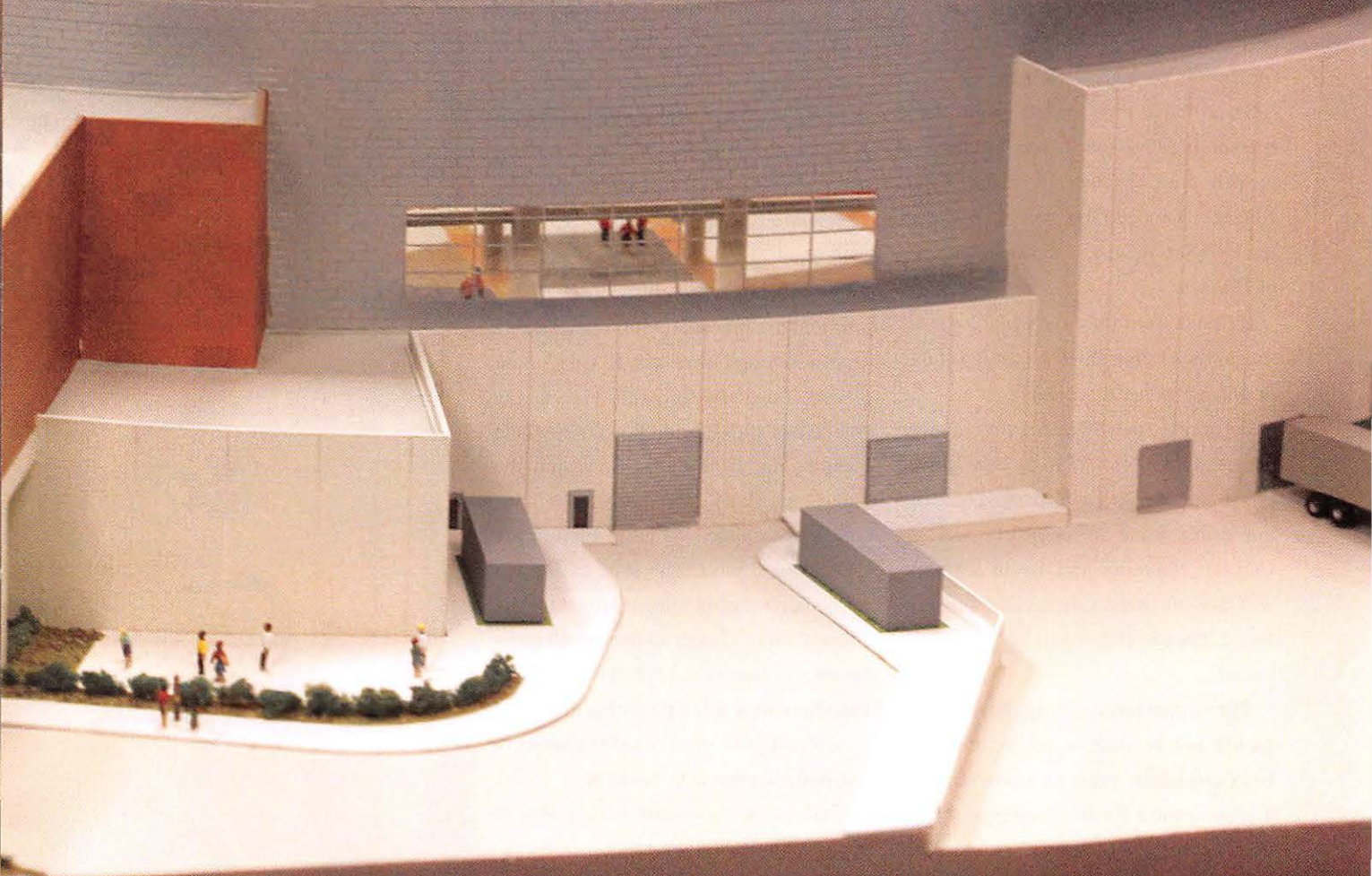
NEW HOME

The City of Lincoln announced in early December that the naming rights for the new arena, located in the West Haymarket in downtown Lincoln, had been sold to Pinnacle Bank. This scale display was also unveiled. The \$179 million arena project was approved in 2010 and will open in the fall of 2013. UNL basketball will be the main tenant, which can hold nearly 15,000 fans for Husker hoops.





Pinnacle Bank Arena



HUSKERS RETURN TO FLORIDA

Nebraska returns to Florida for bowl season

THERE WAS A DAY when earning a bowl bid was a rare accomplishment.

And for 35 straight years, from 1969-2003, Nebraska was fortunate enough to have the success and reputation to play on the biggest post-season stages.

The 1941 Rose Bowl marked the beginning of Nebraska's bowl tradition. The fact that the Huskers lost to Stanford, 21-13, is of no consequence. The point is, there was no Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl in 1941, obviously. The Rose Bowl shared New Year's Day with only four bowls – the Cotton, Orange, Sugar and Sun.

Since those days, bowl games have become big business. It was a tempered growth until the last 15 years. When Nebraska handed Georgia a 45-6 loss in the 1969 Sun Bowl, the game was just one of 11 bowls.

By 1994, Tom Osborne's first national title in the Orange Bowl was still just one of 19 bowl games that season.

But in less than 20 years, that number has nearly doubled. With 35 bowl games this season, missing a bowl game is nearly impossible (case in point: Illinois vs. UCLA). Nebraska and South Carolina will face off in the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 2, but 68 other teams are also bowl-bound.

The importance of a bowl game should not be minimized. A bowl trip has tremendous value to a program. It's a great reward for the players and their families. It allows Bo Pelini and his staff



to get an additional month of practices, which may be more important than the gigantic payouts to the schools.

But now it seems to be all about the BCS bowls (Orange, Cotton, Sugar, Rose), so that any other bowl seems trivial in the mind of most fans. The fact that Nebraska hasn't played in a BCS bowl since the 2001 season could be a factor. Or it's probably because of the sheer numbers.

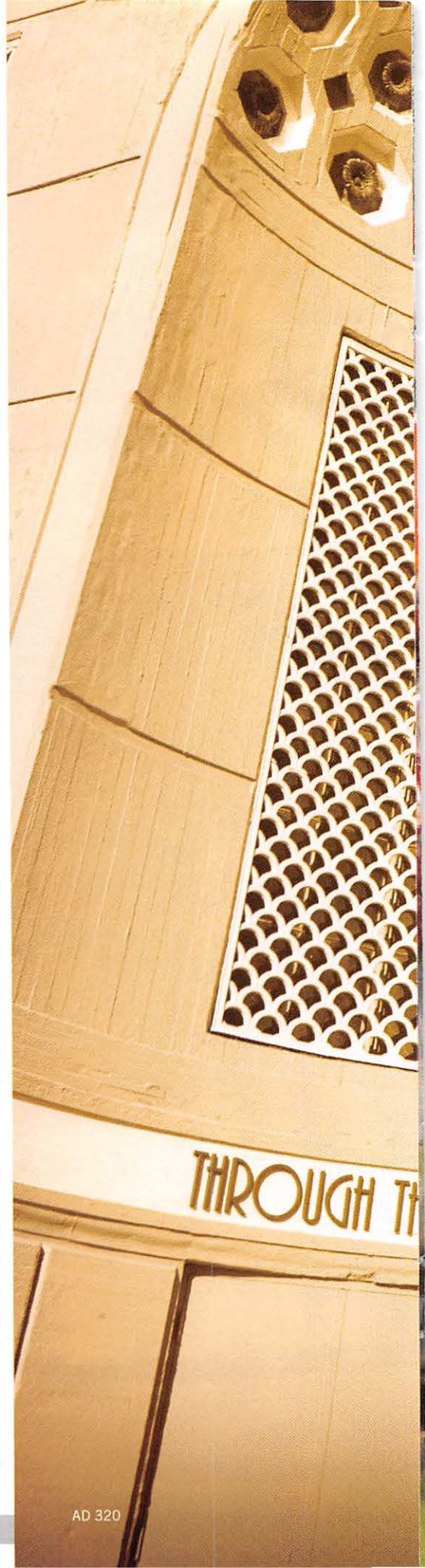
So while the Capital One Bowl is not a BCS bowl, it is right there with the Cotton Bowl in prestige for non-BCS bowls. It's in Orlando and includes an SEC opponent. That by itself is a pretty good deal, right?

Florida is nearly synonymous with Nebraska's postseason history. There are fans that are practically Florida residents after watching Nebraska's 17 trips to the Orange Bowl. In fact, this year marks Nebraska's 20th Florida Bowl trip, which includes the 1990 Citrus Bowl and the 2008 Gator Bowl.

Sure the chances to go to Florida are greater these days. The state of Florida hosts six bowl games this season (Orange, Capital One, Gator, Outback, Champs Sports and Beef O'Brady's), but going to a Florida bowl is still a pretty big deal.

After all, your team could be playing in one of the six bowls in Texas. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





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DOUBLE DIP



BY MIKE BABCOCK

Brett Maher is a work in progress. Take it from John Papuchis.

"He's done a great job, but there's always room for improvement," the Huskers' special-teams coach said. "He hasn't arrived yet, and I hope that at no point in his career while he's at Nebraska does he feel like he's arrived. There's always room for improvement, and if he continues to get better and better, it'll be exciting to watch his development over the course of the next year."

Maher has set a high standard for himself in his first season as punter and place-kicker, after facing the considerable challenge of succeeding Alex Henery, the best in school history.

Maher earned first-team All-Big Ten honors for both punting and place-kicking. Henery wasn't first-team all-conference in either during his career, despite earning All-America honors last season.

Maher is Nebraska's first all-conference punter since Kyle Larson in 2003 and the Huskers' first all-conference place-kicker since Josh Brown in 2002.

Nebraska had three other first-team All-Big Ten honorees, as with Maher as selected by both the coaches and conference-area media: running back Rex Burkhead, linebacker Lavonte David, cornerback Alfonzo Dennard. Maher, David and Dennard were individual award winners as well:

Butkus-Fitzgerald Linebacker of the Year – David

(Named for Illinois' Dick Butkus & Northwestern's Pat Fitzgerald)

Tatum-Woodson Defensive Back of the Year – Dennard

(Named for Ohio State's Jack Tatum & Purdue's Rod Woodson)

Bakken-Andersen Kicker of the Year – Maher

(Named for Wisconsin's Jim Bakken & Michigan State's Morten Andersen)

Eddleman-Fields Punter of the Year – Maher

(Named for Illinois' Dike Eddleman & Michigan State's Brandon Fields)

In addition, Husker center Mike Caputo was a second-team selection by the coaches and guard Spencer Long was a second-team selection by the conference-area media.

Honorable mention, coaches: Long, Will Compton, Ben Cotton, Marcel Jones, Baker Steinkuhler.

Honorable mention, media: Caputo, Compton, Cotton, Jones, Austin Cassidy, Cameron Meredith.

COACHES' ALL-BIG TEN CONFERENCE – FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

TE	Drake Dunsmore, Northwestern	6-3, 235	Sr.
T	Josh Oglesby, Wisconsin	6-7, 330	Sr.
G	Joel Foreman, Michigan State	6-4, 315	Sr.
C	David Molk, Michigan	6-2, 286	Sr.
G	Kevin Zeitler, Wisconsin	6-4, 315	Sr.
T	Riley Reiff, Iowa	6-6, 300	Jr.
R	A.J. Jenkins, Illinois	6-1, 190	Sr.
R	Marvin McNutt, Iowa	6-4, 215	Sr.
QB	Russell Wilson, Wisconsin	5-11, 210	Sr.
RB	REX BURKHEAD, NEBRASKA	5-11, 210	Jr.
RB	Montee Ball, Wisconsin	5-11, 210	Jr.
PK	BRETT MAHER, NEBRASKA	6-0, 185	Jr.

COACHES' ALL-BIG TEN CONFERENCE – FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

L	Whitney Mercilus, Illinois	6-4, 265	Jr.
L	Jerel Worthy, Michigan State	6-3, 310	Jr.
L	John Simon, Ohio State	6-2, 270	Jr.
L	Devon Still, Penn State	6-5, 310	Sr.
LB	LAVONTE DAVID, NEBRASKA	6-1, 225	Sr.
LB	Gerald Hodges, Penn State	6-2, 234	Jr.
LB	Chris Borland, Wisconsin	5-11, 245	So.
DB	Shaun Prater, Iowa	5-11, 185	Sr.
DB	Johnny Adams, Michigan State	5-11, 175	Jr.
DB	ALFONZO DENNARD, NEBRASKA	5-10, 205	Sr.
DB	Aaron Henry, Wisconsin	6-0, 210	Sr.
P	BRETT MAHER, NEBRASKA	6-0, 185	Jr.

HI'S TOP5

BEST BOWL RUSHING TOTALS



1 DAN ALEXANDER, 240 (20 CARRIES, 2 TD) 2000 Alamo Bowl, Northwestern, 66-17

Alexander led an offensive assault that produced NCAA bowl team records for points, touchdowns, net rushing yards and points in a quarter – 31 in the second.

2 AHMAN GREEN, 206 (29 CARRIES, 2 TD) 1998 Orange Bowl, Tennessee, 42-17

Green finished his collegiate career in style. The Huskers went into the game ranked first nationally in scoring offense, total offense and rushing.

3 TOMMIE FRAZIER, 199 (16 CARRIES, 2 TD) 1996 Fiesta Bowl, Florida, 62-24

Frazier's 75-yard touchdown run, on which he broke tackle after tackle, is among the most memorable individual highlights in Husker history.

4 LAWRENCE PHILLIPS, 165 (25 CARRIES, 2 TD) 1996 Fiesta Bowl, Florida, 62-24

The carries were a season-high for Phillips, who was suspended for six games, returning against Iowa State. He scored the game's first touchdown on a 16-yard pass play.

5 CORY ROSS, 161 (28 CARRIES, 1 TD) 2005 Alamo Bowl, Michigan, 32-28

Two seasons later, Ross would return to the Alamo Bowl and set the Husker single-game record for carries – broken by Rex Burkhead against Iowa.



REPLACING CARL

CARL PELINI, Nebraska's defensive coordinator the past four years, was named head coach at Florida Atlantic in early December, replacing Howard Schnellenberger, who retired following the Owls' 1-11 season. "Carl is very prepared to take the next step and become a head coach, and I am excited for him," brother **BO PELINI** said in a release. "He has all of the skills you need to be a successful head coach, and I think the opportunity at Florida Atlantic is one with a lot of potential."

"Carl has been a big part of our success here at Nebraska, and it has been great for the two of us to be able to work together

the past four years."

Carl, who will be only the second head coach in Florida Atlantic history (Schnellenberger started the football program), also was a grad assistant at Nebraska in 2003.

When this issue of Huskers Illustrated went to the printer, the Husker defensive coordinator's position had not been filled.

NFL FUTURE

LAVONTE DAVID has made it clear; he's been focusing on his senior season at Nebraska not his future in the NFL. And he'll have an NFL future, according to **BO PELINI**, who coached linebackers for the Green Bay Packers and New England Patri-

ots as well as working with the secondary in San Francisco.

Though the 6-foot-1 David has played at 225 pounds, give or take, this season, he has "unusual pop for a guy his size," said Pelini. "He plays big, plays bigger than maybe people see him. I don't think it's an issue. I know the NFL guys; he's not a prototype inside, 3-4 linebacker. But you talk to NFL scouts and they say he's a football player. Guys like him, you need him on your team."

"He makes your team better, no matter what. I don't care if he's 5-6. Somebody who plays football the way he does is a valuable piece of the puzzle."

MATURITY

Redshirted freshman **KENNY BELL** is the Huskers' leading receiver going into the Capital One Bowl, with 29 catches for 408 yards (also a team-high) and two touchdowns, evidence of his maturing.

"Maturity wise as far as my game, I've gotten better just because I've gotten an opportunity to play a little bit more," he said. "As a man . . . I'm just a 19-year-old kid trying to make it, I guess."

"I don't think I'm very mature."

He won't celebrate his 20th birthday until late February.

SIDELINES

BROTHER ACT

SPENCER LONG and twin brother **JAKE** both had scholarship opportunities at NCAA Division II schools and a Division I-AA (FCS) school or two. But they both chose to walk on at Nebraska.

"We pretty much told everyone that we were a package deal, so we were going together," Spencer said. "Me and my brother are really good friends. We've always done stuff together, get along well. So, I don't know, we just kind of wanted to do the same thing."

"It's just good to have a brother around, you know."

INSIDE SCOOP

As just about any in-state Husker will tell you, when they go home or visit their high school, folks always want to know what's happening behind the scenes in the program. Whenever **SEUNG HOON CHOI** sees his former classmates at Lincoln Christian they try to get some inside information.

"But I always say, 'I don't know; you're asking (the) wrong person,'" Choi said.

He's among the team's strongest players, and a reporter asked him how much he could lift.

"I lift all right," said Choi. "I mean, I don't know."

In that particular case, however, he is the right person to ask.

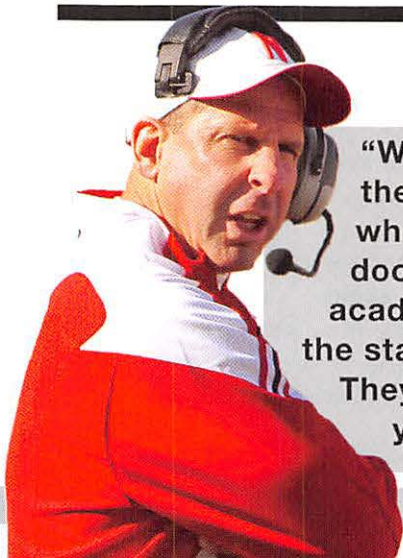
"I think my max . . . is 459 on bench," he said. "I don't know. But I love lifting."

He'd certainly rather lift than run, Choi added with a laugh.

YOU HEARD IT

Bo Pelini on the state of the program

"We are a better football team, and the program has made strides from where it was when I walked in the door here. Our players are doing well academically, and our kids represent the state and university the right way. They're a good representative of what you want this program to be about."



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NEVERENDING

Junior **ERIC MARTIN'S** transition from linebacker to defensive end has taken some time, but he's seen more action as the season has progressed. "Playing linebacker you've got a lot of freedom, moving around and stuff," he said. "Defensive end, there's really no freedom."

A defensive end is always dealing with a blocker, whereas "playing

linebacker, sometimes you don't hit nobody on the play," Martin said. "So it's kind of different, messes up your head a little bit."

At either position, however, "technique never ends," he said. "You can never be too good on your technique. So it's just getting better and better every day is kind of what you've got to do."

THEY SAID IT

» **BO PELINI**, in response to a question about a return to normalcy the week after the Penn State game: "I don't think there is ever normalcy around here."

» Secondary coach **COREY RAYMOND** on redshirted freshman cornerback **JOSH MITCHELL**: "He's a small guy, like 150 pounds. That's a small guy. He'll be up against 220-pound receivers. He's not going to play much bump-and-run. We're working on putting some weight on him." Mitchell is listed at 5-11, 165 pounds.

» Junior long-snapper **P.J. MANGIERI** on something he likes to eat when his parents visit and take him out: "Big sushi fan, yes sir, raw fish, crab."

» Junior **GRAHAM STODDARD**: "People

always ask why we're so good on special teams. It's strictly because of Coach JP (**JOHN PAPUCHIS**). He goes back and he watches so much film. And we are so prepared for any look they can give us."

» **REX BURKHEAD** on senior wide receiver **BRANDON KINNIE**: "There's no one else like him. I love BK. He's always got a smile on his face. He's always laughing and having fun."

» **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** on how he's grown as a quarterback this season: "I think I've grown a lot just because of the game management... it's getting easier every single game."

» Junior wide receiver **TIM MARLOWE** on **REX BURKHEAD**: "Rex is a great leader. I'll follow him any day."



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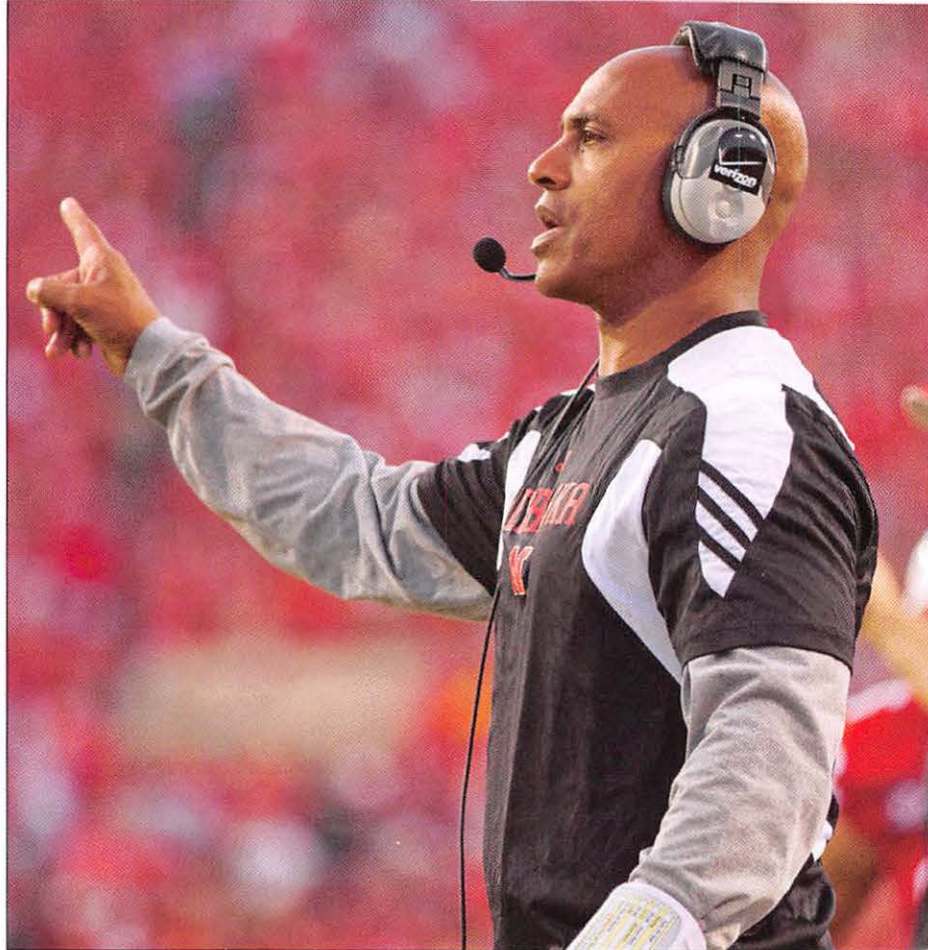




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“Running Back U”

Rewind to last spring and offensive coordinator **TIM BECK'S** explanation of why **RON BROWN** was a good fit as running backs coach and how the Huskers' three freshman running backs were a factor. "I felt like, as **BO (PELINI)** did, here's a young group coming in. They play tailback at the University of Nebraska, which is 'Running Back University,' as far as I'm concerned," Beck said.

"And what better guy to teach about the legacy of the program, the toughness that it takes to play the position, you know, the integrity, what better coach than **RON BROWN**?"

Coaching the position was "a perfect match for him," said Beck.

And so it has been for the veteran of 21 seasons at Nebraska.

"When we sit in the meeting room and see how deep we are at the running back position,

he always tells us, 'This is how we were in the '90s,'" **AARON GREEN** said earlier this season.

He hasn't gotten tired of Brown's references to Nebraska's great running backs.

"To be honest, he kind of makes me want to be like them because those were some dudes back then," said Green, who's from San Antonio, Texas. "They used to win national championships, so that's the goal that I try to strive for here, is to bring the glory days back to Nebraska."

Such tradition is "very, very important," Green said. "I'm not from Nebraska, but I might as well be if I'm playing for the team. I know a lot has gone down here in this stadium, right there on that field. So I just want to be a part of it, keep the history and tradition going."

GOTTA MOVE ON

Sophomore offensive guard **ANDREW RODRIGUEZ** typically watches game video as soon as he can afterward, on his iPad. "I actually get irritated when I see what I could've done, like if one play I screwed up. I just get this adrenaline rush," he said. "If I would have done it right, I would have had a pancake, something like that. I try to correct myself. . . but sometimes you just need to cool off."

"Because I get a little amped up too much."

Setting aside mistakes "is the hardest thing to do," said Rodriguez, who was sidelined by injury late in the season. "When it comes to being an athlete, whatever you may do, it is the hardest thing to do. You have like sports psychologists . . . trying to help people with that. It is really hard to master, to throw it away, to throw it away the next play and move on; that's hard to do."

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BOWLED OVER

Not everyone in Nebraska is obsessed with Husker football, apparently. This came as a shock to me in my early adult life.

There are people who have moved here from other states, of course. Some even retain strong allegiances with teams such as Iowa and Kansas State. You've probably seen them around with their sweatshirts. Please tell your kids not to stare.

There are also those people who just like to be contrarian. Or, as they're more commonly referred to around here, "vegans."

Then there are the people who became my relatives on my wedding day.

Lovely people, mind you. Especially those in my wife's hometown, just beyond the Mountain Time Zone line. Salt of the earth, these people. And just like the phrase "salt of the earth," I don't quite understand them.

You see, even though I've spent my entire life in the state of Nebraska, I've pretty much spent it below the O Street line in Lincoln. Below the South Street line, even. Let's just say farms and the people who work them were about as foreign to me as people who worked on the International Space Station. I take that back.

I have a general sense of how astronauts spend their days.

My new, extended family had interests that I could not comprehend. Hunting, for example. Fixing things. Plus other stuff, mostly branching off the concept of hard work. To be fair, there were plenty of things my new relatives couldn't understand about me, either. Like how a grown man

could have such soft, pink hands.

But there was every reason to assume we would at least have the Cornhuskers as common ground.

After all, these were multi-generational Nebraskans just like me.

Nope.

Well, let me clarify this. All in all, I guess they'd prefer to see

Nebraska do well. It's just that they don't particularly care to go out of their way to see Nebraska do it. Hunting trips easily beat out Husker games, for example. I was shocked when I realized none of these people could name the third-string running back. It seemed these people had "lives," and "other interests," and "healthy balance." Freaky.

This became horrifyingly apparent to me on New Year's Eve, 1993. Nebraska was playing Florida State the following night for the national championship. I, unlike everyone else in the world, had a feeling Nebraska was going to win.

My wife and I made the four-hour trek out west to celebrate Christmastime with her family. I was reluctantly

OK with the idea of celebrating a national championship on foreign soil. But you make compromises when you're married.

So there I was. Surrounded by new family members and their little kids running around in a New Year's Eve frenzy. I was concentrating on defensive schemes for stopping Char-

lie Ward, just in case Coach Osborne called me up and asked for some last-minute advice. Then I overheard something that sent a chill through my body.

"I picked up some movies for the kids. I thought they could watch them tomorrow night."

Tomorrow night. As in during the Orange Bowl. On the

one TV set in the house.

I mentioned the game, assuming everyone had simply forgotten. Again, nope. My head exploded into exclamation points.

Fast forward. Yada yada yada, angry whispering in side room. Yada yada yada, explaining why I wasn't going to watch a big game by myself in a small-town bar. Yada, yada, driving home by myself to watch the game with my father. Yada, yada, yada, leaning over in front of the TV, hands on knees, convinced the Huskers would win on the final kick. Yada, yada, yada, waking up in an empty house surrounded by empty beer cans.

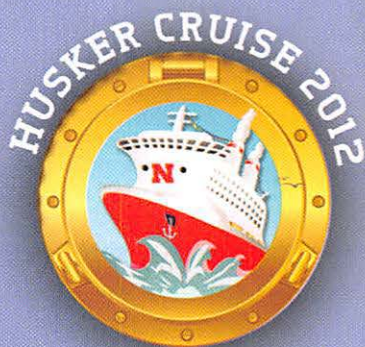
Since then, I've mellowed a little bit. Maybe that's a natural byproduct of watching the Huskers win three national titles in those four years that followed. Or maybe it's from spending so much time with family members who have never shared my particular brand of mania.

Either way, no furniture was destroyed after the Northwestern game this year. So I guess it's been a good thing.

"Tim Siedell is a writer and humorist whose first book, "Marching Bands Are Just Homeless Orchestras" is available now through Amazon.

Follow him on Twitter: @badbanana.

To be fair, there were plenty of things my new relatives couldn't understand about me, either. Like how a grown man could have such soft, pink hands.

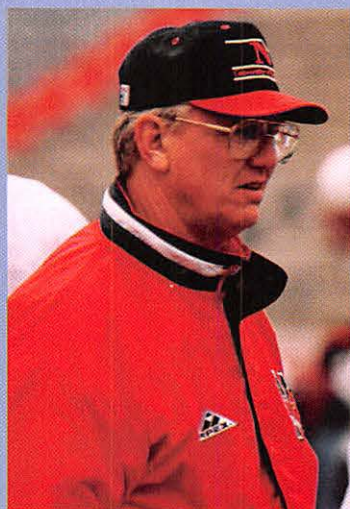


FEBRUARY 24-27

**SET SAIL
WITH THE
HUSKERS**
HUSKERCruise.COM



MILT TENOPIR



CHARLIE MCBRIDE

HUSKERCruise.COM



Grand Island native's "family pride" part of walk-on decision



**GRAND ISLAND IS A
UNIQUE PLACE FOR
FOOTBALL.** The high

school coaches there work closely with the youth coaches to teach the young players the

same system they'll someday run at the high school level. Andy Gdowski was part of the Grand Island youth football pipeline.

Gdowski started playing youth football in fifth grade. He learned then what he needed to know when he arrived at Grand Island High School.

"The football program at Grand Island High makes the town unique," Gdowski said. "The coaches do a great job of working with kids from youth football up to the high school. They do a lot of corresponding what the high school coaches want out of the youth coaches."

It worked well for Gdowski, who is a redshirted freshman defensive end. Gdowski finished his senior season with 58 tackles, five sacks and a fumble recovery. He helped Grand Island High to a 7-3 record and an appearance in the Class A quarterfinals as a senior.

Gdowski is also a part of a family pipeline. His father, Tom Gdowski, was also a defensive lineman at Nebraska. Tom lettered from 1980-82 as a defensive tackle under Tom Osborne.

Carl Pelini has been the Huskers' defensive coordinator, Andy's first two seasons at Nebraska. His father played for Charlie McBride, who was Nebraska's defensive line coach from 1977-1999

and became the defensive coordinator in 1981.

"We sit down and compare generations sometimes," Andy said. "Sometimes we compare some of the similarities between Carl Pelini (now the head coach at Florida Atlantic) and McBride. Both of them push you hard and they want the best out of you."

Having a father who played Division I football helps. Dad understands the struggles of playing football at Nebraska.

"Having a Dad that played here is helpful in a lot of ways," Andy said. "He can relate to what I am doing, and he can help me through some of the tougher struggles that go with playing college football. He's very supportive of what I do."

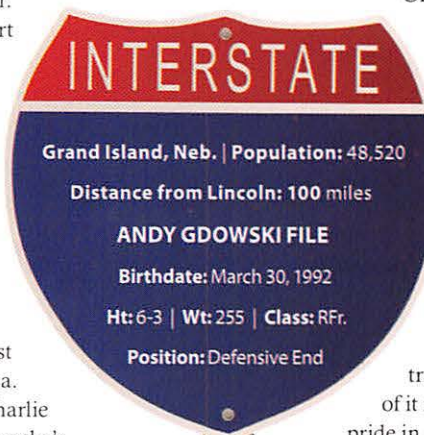
Out of high school, another Nebraska football family connection recruited Andy. Ohio quarterbacks coach Gerry Gdowski played quarterback at Nebraska from 1987-1989.

Gerry and Tom Gdowski are cousins, and "when I was being recruited at Ohio there was some communication between them," Andy said.

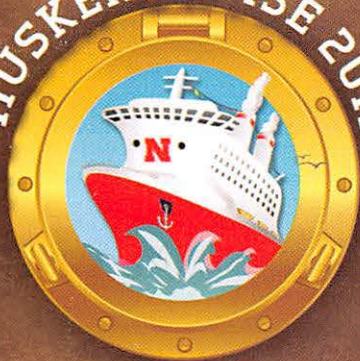
Though never offered a scholarship by Ohio, he did turn down scholarship offers from Nebraska-Kearney, Nebraska-Omaha and South Dakota State in order to walk-on at Nebraska.

"It means a lot to be a walk-on here," Andy said. "The walk-on program here has tradition. To be a part of it means a lot, and I take pride in it."

There's some family pride involved, too.



HUSKER CRUISE 2012



FEBRUARY 24-27

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HUSKERCUISE.COM

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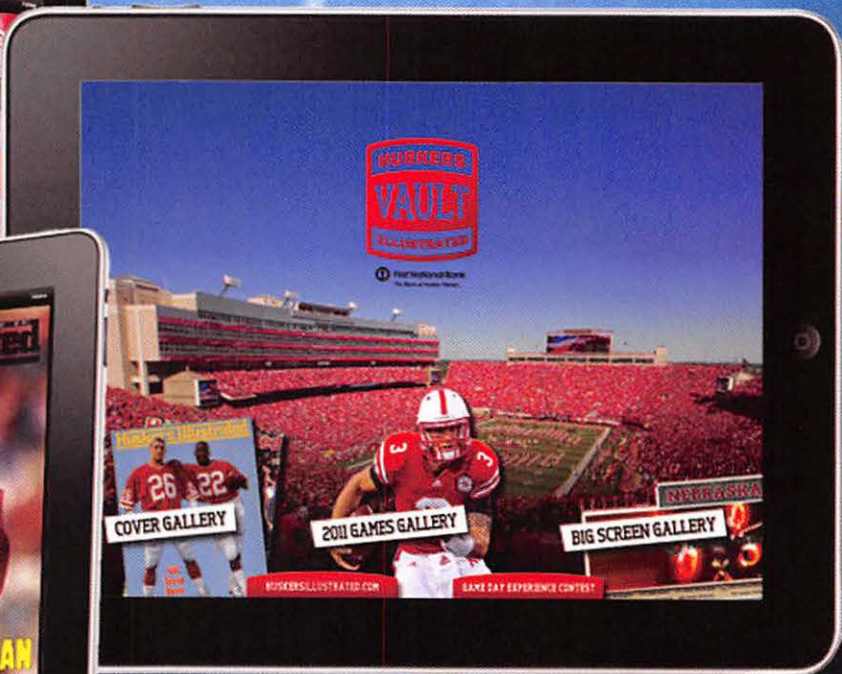
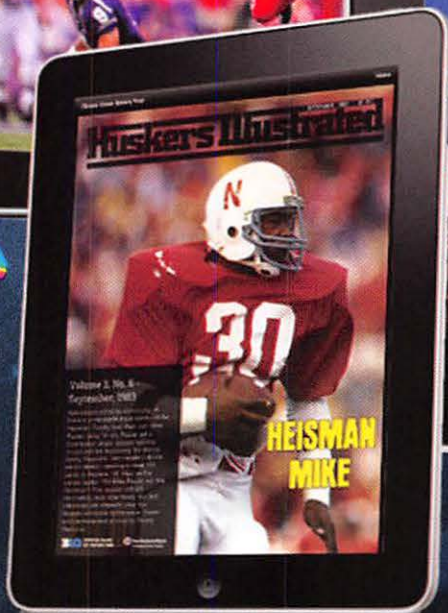
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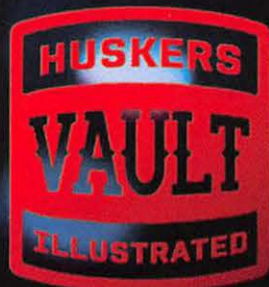


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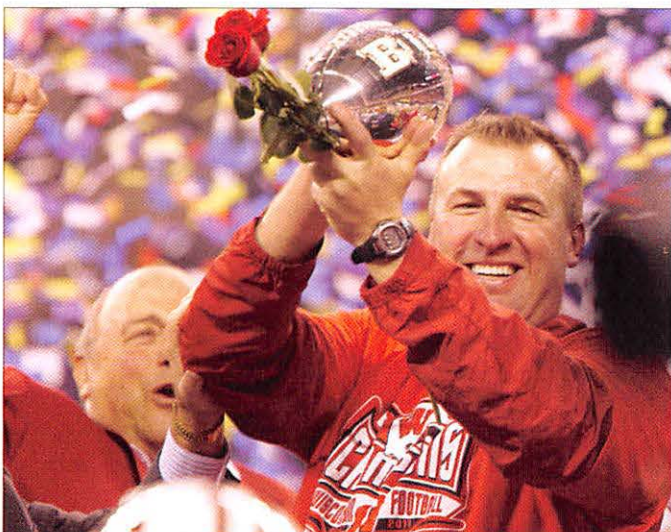


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THE **BIG TEN** BEAT

Badgers take first Big Ten title game

Wisconsin avenges loss to Michigan State to earn Rose Bowl berth | TERRY DOUGLASS



MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/INCT/ZUMAPRESS.COM

Along with earning a Rose Bowl berth with a 42-39 victory over Michigan State in the inaugural Big Ten Conference championship game, Wisconsin quarterback Russell Wilson seemed enamored with the notion that the Badgers will always be the answer to a trivia question.

"To win the first-ever Big Ten Championship game is pretty awesome," said Wilson, who earned MVP honors by completing 17-of-24 passes for 187 yards and three touchdowns, extending his NCAA record for consecutive games with at least one scoring pass to 37. "A hundred years from now people will look back and say who won that game? Who won the first-ever (championship) game, and it's Wisconsin."

Indeed, it was a memorable night for Wisconsin (11-2) as the Badgers overcame a fourth-quarter deficit to score

the go-ahead touchdown on Montee Ball's 7-yard run with 3:45 to play at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Ball finished with 137 yards rushing on 27 carries with four TDs (three rushing and one receiving).

The victory served as payback to the Spartans (10-3), who beat Wisconsin 37-31 on a last-second TD pass on Oct. 1 in East Lansing. The Badgers suffered an amazingly similar loss the following week at Ohio State, falling 33-29 on another late Hail Mary by the Buckeyes.

"So many guys had tremendous faith during the most difficult time in their playing careers," Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema said. "After those two defeats, to have a group of guys come back and focus on a four-week stretch to come into this week and play the way we did, I was very excited."

BUCKEYES TAB MEYER

Urban Meyer was introduced as Ohio State's new football coach on Nov. 28.

"I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to return to Ohio State," said Meyer who began his coaching career with the Buckeyes as an assistant.

"This university and the state of Ohio have enormous meaning to me. My duty is to ensure that Ohio State's football program reflects and enhances the academic mission of the institution. I am part of it, I believe in it and I will live it."

Meyer most recently served as Florida's head coach from 2005-2010 where he won national titles in 2006 and 2008. Ohio State interim coach Luke Fickell will remain as a member of Meyer's coaching staff.

ILLINOIS' ZOOK FIRED

Illinois, which became the first FBS program to start the season 6-0 and then close the regular season with six consecutive losses, fired head coach Ron Zook on Nov. 27.

Although Zook finished with a 34-51 overall coaching record with the Fighting Illini, he did have some success. He guided Illinois to its first Rose Bowl appearance since 1984 in 2007 and the program's first bowl victory since 1999 in last season's Texas Bowl against Baylor.

BOWL BOUND

For the first time in Big Ten history, 10 teams were selected to participate in post-season bowl games. The Big Ten lineup:

► Big Ten champion Wisconsin (11-2) heads to the Rose Bowl Game for the second consecutive season where the Badgers will face Pac-12 Champion Oregon.

► Michigan (10-2) returned to the BCS picture after being selected to the Allstate Sugar Bowl to face Virginia Tech of the ACC.

► Nebraska (9-3) heads to the post-season as a member of the Big Ten for the first time and makes its first appearance in the Capital One Bowl against SEC foe South Carolina.

► Legends Division champion Michigan State (10-3) will make its 22nd bowl appearance when it takes the field for the first time in the Outback Bowl against SEC East champion Georgia.

► Iowa (7-5) will make a return trip to the Insight Bowl where the Hawkeyes take on Oklahoma of the Big 12.

► Making its 42nd bowl appearance, Ohio State (6-6) is heading to the TaxSlayer.com Gator Bowl for the first time since 1978 to face Florida.

► Northwestern (6-6) will appear in its fourth consecutive bowl game for the first time in program history when the Wildcats play Texas A&M in the Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas in Houston.

► Penn State (9-3) is bowl-bound for the 44th time in program history and will face Houston of Conference USA in the TicketCity Bowl.

► Returning to post-season play for the first time since 2007, Purdue (6-6) heads to Detroit to take part in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl against Western Michigan of the MAC.

► Illinois (6-6) will make back-to-back bowl trips for the first time since the 1991 and 1992 seasons when the Fighting Illini plays UCLA of the Pac-12 in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl.

Huskers look ahead after surviving Big Ten initiation

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

After Nebraska's 20-7 win over Iowa, and the Heroes Trophy in hand, Nebraska's inaugural run through the Big Ten in the books, several Nebraska players limped through the tunnel towards the Nebraska locker room.

Head coach Bo Pelini looked tired at the podium after the game. Rex Burkhead ran a program-record 38 times on two bad ankles and defensive linemen Baker Steinkuhler and Terrence Moore were both hurt in the game, while defensive line coach John Papuchis was left to cobble together four defensive linemen on each play.

"Whoever could line up and play, we played; as long as we got four guys out there," Papuchis said after the game.

Many had high expectations for Nebraska coming into this season. The defense seemed well set up, the offense had plenty of young fire power, but the Huskers learned a tough lesson about the Big Ten – every week is a tough game.

Nebraska found out first-hand the buzzsaw that the Big Ten can be. The Huskers got all the Big Ten had to offer – match-ups with Ohio State and Michigan State, along with road trips to Wisconsin, Michigan and Penn State. What some predicted would be a coronation on the way to the Big Ten title game looked more like a bad hazing.

With the Capital One Bowl and South Carolina still awaiting Nebraska in Orlando, it might be premature to look back on the season completely, but Nebraska players and coaches said they learned plenty on the first go-round through the conference.

"I can tell you this, I have a lot more respect for the Big Ten defensively than initially coming in," Nebraska wide receivers coach Rich Fisher said. "Playing in the Big 12 was like fast-break basketball, but the Big Ten, perception wise, people think of big and slow, but week-in and week-out we were playing the best defense we'd seen to date. I think defense in the Big Ten is very underrated."

The feeling lingering from Nebraska's 9-3 regular season changes based on expectations. Nebraska was playing eight new league opponents and required longer hours and more scouting than had been required in previous years. Mix in the fact that Nebraska was still breaking in Tim Beck's offense, and it's easy to



**"I think
defense
in the
Big Ten
is very
under-
rated"**

Rich Fisher

see that Nebraska could have had some growing pains.

Maybe the biggest eye-opener came against Northwestern, where a pesky Wildcat team took a game that many had circled as a win, and beat Nebraska on its own field. This isn't the Big 12 North anymore.

"It's a physical conference," running backs coach Ron Brown said. "It's a competitive league. It's a well-coached league. There is speed on the outside. It's more than a solid conference; it's a very good conference. It's very competitive. I think all those things we surmised, we thought.

"I don't know if anything surprised us. We had to be ready for the wear and tear of this league. A team like Northwestern was a little bit like what we used to experience with Iowa State. Iowa State was starting to get good. Northwestern is no slouch; they can beat anybody."

After the bowl game, Nebraska will have time to examine its first Big Ten season, but you can already see adjustments being made. Nebraska is generally going after bigger linebackers in the 2012 recruiting class. Bigger defensive linemen wouldn't hurt, either.

The question coming into 2011 was how Nebraska would hold up to the pounding of the Big Ten, and Nebraska seems to have held up well.

"I think the guys are learning what it takes to compete week-to-week at this level," Fisher said. "Like Bo said, you have to respect your opponent and respect the game. There's no doubt we have the mindset, the talent and the attitude. That's a tough lesson when you fail, but if we can learn from that and get back to work, the kids will be excited to finish the season in a good bowl game." **N**

*Read daily Husker reports from
Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
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F, 6-10, 235, JR
OVERLAND PARK, KAN.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Brandon Ubel

NU junior goes from the court, to sitting behind the mic

Growing up, Brandon Ubel was always impressed with the basketball knowledge former Duke player Jay Bilas brought to ESPN telecasts.

"I've always enjoyed him," Ubel said. "Obviously, Dick Vitale is always fun to listen to. You watch ESPN and you watch all those guys, and it's just fun to see what they have to say. Whether you agree or disagree, you're still watching."

Ubel, who became interested in broadcasting after taking related classes in high school, hopes somebody's watching him on camera someday. But first, the junior Nebraska

basketball player is starting in radio.

Ubel was preparing for his official broadcasting debut in early December for Nebraska student radio station KRNU, doing color analysis for a Husker women's basketball game. He immediately discovered some similarities between game preparation and scouting an opponent as a player.

"You've got to research different players, all their numbers and everything, but then also kind of look into things they've done in previous years so you kind of have facts about everybody," Ubel said. "And if you can, find some film

on them and see how they play, so you kind of know going in what to expect and to see if they do what they usually do. It's pretty fun."

Ubel, who says he has more interest in television over radio, has spent two-plus years at Nebraska being on the other side of the camera, getting critiqued and analyzed. How will he handle the role change?

"I'm not sure. It'll be different," he said. "Obviously, just a player's perspective is very different. I'll try not to get too bogged down in too in-depth conversations. But it will be an eye-opening experience."

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED: Have you ever seen the "Boom goes the dynamite!" student in his broadcasting debut?

UBEL: I have. I have a feeling I can do a little bit better than that. I'm not sure though.

2

HI: How would you handle play-by-play for soccer?

UBEL: Ooh, that would tough. I don't know too much about soccer. But I would give it a shot.

3

HI: What's your favorite Doc Sadler expression?

UBEL: Probably just when he says, 'Wooow.'

4

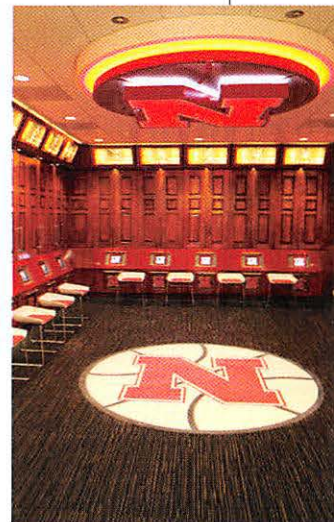
HI: What's the best feature of your new practice facility?

UBEL: Just the fact that it's just ours. Nobody else can really come in here and kick us off the court. Whenever we want, we can come up here. Just having that ownership over it is pretty cool.

5

HI: Who's your funniest teammate?

UBEL: Probably David Rivers. He's just a goofy kid. He does some pretty funny stuff and says some pretty random things.





Gildan New Mexico

Albuquerque, N.M.
Dec. 17, 1 p.m. CST
ESPN

Temple
(8-4, 5-3 MAC)

Wyoming
(8-4, 5-2 MWC)



Famous Idaho Potato

Boise, Idaho
Dec. 17, 4:30 p.m. CST,
ESPN

Ohio
(9-4, 6-2 MAC)

Utah State
(7-5, 5-2 WAC)



R+L Carriers New Orleans

New Orleans
Dec. 17, 8 p.m. CST
ESPN

SDSU
(8-4, 4-3 MWC)

La Lafayette
(8-4, 6-2 Sun Belt)



Beef 'O' Brady's St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg, Fla.
Dec. 20, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Florida Internat'l
(8-4, 5-3 Sun Belt)

Marshall
(6-6, 5-3 C-USA)



San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia

San Diego
Dec. 21, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

TCU
(10-2, 7-0, MWC)

La Tech
(8-4, 6-1 WAC)



Maaco Las Vegas

Las Vegas
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Arizona State
(6-6, 4-5 Pac-12)

Boise State
(11-1, 6-1 MWC)



Sheraton Hawaii

Honolulu
Dec. 24, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Nevada
(7-5, 5-2 WAC)

Southern Miss
(11-2, 6-2 C-USA)



Advocate V100 Independence

Shreveport, La.
Dec. 26, 4:00 p.m. CST
ESPN2

Missouri
(7-5, 5-4 Big 12)

UNC
(7-5, 3-5 ACC)



Little Caesars

Detroit
Dec. 27, 3:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Western Michigan
(7-5, 5-3 MAC)

Purdue
(6-6, 4-4 Big Ten)



Belk Bowl

Charlotte, N.C.
Dec. 27, 7:00 p.m. CST
ESPN

Louisville
(7-5, 5-2 Big East)

NC State
(7-5, 4-4 ACC)



Military

Washington, D.C.
Dec. 28, 3:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Toledo
(8-4, 7-1 MAC)

Air Force
(7-5, 3-4 MWC)



Bridgeport Education Holiday

San Diego
Dec. 28, 7:00 p.m. CST
ESPN

California
(7-5, 4-5 Pac-12)

Texas
(7-5, 4-5 Big 12)



Champs Sports

Orlando, Fla.
Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Florida State
(8-4, 5-3 ACC)

Notre Dame
(8-4)



Valero Alamo

San Antonio
Dec. 29, 8:00 p.m. CST
ESPN

Washington
(7-5, 5-4 Pac-12)

Baylor
(9-3, 6-3 Big 12)



Bell Helicopter Armed Forces

Dallas
Dec. 30, 11 a.m. CST
ESPN

BYU
(9-3)

Tulsa
(8-4, 7-1 C-USA)



New Era Pinstripe

Bronx, N.Y.
Dec. 30, 2:20 p.m. CST
ESPN

Rutgers
(8-4, 4-3 Big East)

Iowa State
(6-6, 3-6 Big 12)



Franklin American Mortgage Music City

Nashville, Tenn.
Dec. 30, 5:40 p.m. CST
ESPN

Mississippi State
(6-6, 2-6 SEC)

Wake Forest
(6-6, 5-3 ACC)



Insight

Tempe, Ariz.
Dec. 30, 9 p.m. CST
ESPN

Iowa
(7-5, 4-4 Big Ten)

Oklahoma
(9-3, 6-3 Big 12)



Meineke Car Care

Houston
Dec. 31, 11 a.m. CST
ESPN

Texas A&M
(6-6, 4-5 Big 12)

Northwestern
(6-6, 3-5 Big Ten)



Hyundai Sun

El Paso, Texas
Dec. 31, 1 p.m. CST
CBS

Georgia Tech
(8-4, 5-3 ACC)

Utah
(7-5, 4-5 Pac-12)



AutoZone Liberty

Memphis, Tenn.
Dec. 31, 2:30 p.m. CST
ABC

Cincinnati
(9-3, 5-2 Big East)

Vanderbilt
(6-6, 2-6 SEC)



KRAFT Fight Hunger

San Francisco
Dec. 31, 2:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Illinois
(6-6, 2-6 Big Ten)

UCLA
(6-7, 5-4 Pac-12)



Chick-fil-A

Atlanta
Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Virginia
(8-4, 5-3 ACC)

Auburn
(7-5, 4-4 SEC)



TicketCity

Dallas
Jan. 2, 11 a.m. CST
ESPN

Houston
(12-1, 8-0 C-USA)

Penn State
(9-3, 6-2 Big Ten)



Outback

Tampa, Fla.
Jan. 2, 12 p.m. CST
ABC

Michigan State
(10-3, 7-1 Big Ten)

Georgia
(10-3, 7-1 SEC)



Capital One

Orlando, Fla.
Jan. 2, 12 p.m. CST
ESPN

Nebraska
(9-3, 5-3 Big Ten)

South Carolina
(10-2, 6-2 SEC)



Taxslayer.com Gator

Jacksonville, Fla.
Jan. 2, 12:00 p.m. CST
ESPN2

Ohio State
(6-6, 3-5 Big Ten)

Florida
(6-6, 3-5 SEC)



Rose

Pasadena, Calif.
Jan. 2, 4 p.m. CST
ESPN

Wisconsin
(11-2, 6-2 Big Ten)

Oregon
(11-2, 8-1 Pac-12)



Tostitos Fiesta

Glendale, Ariz.
Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Stanford
(11-1, 8-1 Pac-12)

Oklahoma State
(11-1, 8-1 Big 12)



Allstate Sugar

New Orleans
Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Michigan
(10-2, 6-2 Big Ten)

Virginia Tech
(11-2, 7-1 ACC)



Orange

Miami
Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

West Virginia
(9-3, 5-2 Big East)

Clemson
(10-3, 6-2 ACC)



AT&T Cotton

Arlington, Texas
Jan. 6, 7 p.m. CST
FOX

Kansas State
(10-2, 7-2 Big 12)

Arkansas
(10-2, 6-2 SEC)



BBVA Compass

Birmingham, Ala.
Jan. 7, 12 p.m. CST
ESPN

SMU
(7-5, 5-3 C-USA)

Pittsburgh
(6-6, 4-3 Big East)



GoDaddy.com

Mobile, Ala.
Jan. 8, 8 p.m. CST
ESPN

Arkansas State
(10-2, 8-0 Sun Belt)

Northern Illinois
(10-3, 7-1 MAC)



Allstate BCS Championship

New Orleans
Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Alabama
(11-1, 7-1 SEC)

LSU
(13-0, 8-0 SEC)



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Welcome to HuskersIllustrated

Five questions for Washington week



by Michael Bruntz, 6 minutes ago
Five questions for Nebraska as the Huskers prepare for Washington. [More](#)

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Five questions for
Washington week



Inside the box (score):
Week Two



Facing game
improves Washington



Eight top recruits for
Huskers

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Direct Mail Solutions

2011 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Sept. 3	TN at Chattanooga	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 10	Fresno State	6 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 17	Washington	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 24	Wyoming	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 1	Wisconsin *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 8	Ohio State *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 22	Minnesota *	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 29	Michigan State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 5	Northwestern *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 12	Penn State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 19	Michigan *	TBA
Fri, Nov. 25	Iowa *	11 a.m.

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IN THE Red Zone

Preparation, hard-work makes Burkhead the player he is

Earlier this season, Bo Pelini was asked if Rex Burkhead was overlooked nationally.

"I don't think there's any question," Pelini said. "I think the coaches that play against him and watch him on film have a real appreciation. Nationally, I don't know. Maybe he isn't flashy enough or doesn't talk enough. I think it's pretty obvious how good of a football player he is."

Obvious enough that the junior from Plano, Texas, was among 10 semifinalists for the Doak Walker Award, as well as being a first-team All-Big 10 selection.

Preparation makes Burkhead the player he is.

Running backs coach Ron Brown has compared him to the Energizer Bunny, offering this explanation for his success earlier this season. "He's got great energy, but he trains that way," said Brown.

"It's not by osmosis. It's training. The kid is so dedicated."

In the classroom as well as on the field.

"He's a very studious kid. He's academically strong," Brown said. "It means a lot to him. He's taking some

tough classes . . . the kid just budgets his time."

Burkhead has set a standard for Nebraska's freshmen running backs.

"One of the things I've talked to those guys about is just, you know, when God was passing out time, he gave everybody the same," said Brown. "There's no discrimination. Everybody gets 24/7, 365."

The question is: What do you do with that time? Confidence and preparation are married, and time performs the wedding ceremony. I think Rex understands that principle.

"The reason why he's a confident athlete is because he's prepared. The reason why he's so prepared, it leads to his confidence. And he knows how to maximize his time."

The bottom line is, Burkhead has earned everything he's gotten. "Everything you say about Rex Burkhead, all the people when



they cheer loud for him and all that kind of stuff, he's kind of the darling boy. (But) it isn't because somebody has just handed out something to him," Brown said.

Burkhead is the same in practice as he is in games.

"Sometimes it's hard to get him to dial it down (in practice)," said Pelini. "You have to do it by getting him out of there. When he is in there, he's going to go 100 miles an hour. You just have to find time to get him his rest, get him out of there and let him watch and coach the other guys.

"It's a great problem to have. He's a tremendous example for the young guys on our team."

And the veterans as well.

Burkhead is in a position to move into the Huskers' top 10 rushing for a season and possibly even the top 10 in career rushing in the bowl game against South Carolina.

SINGLE-SEASON RUSHING

1. Mike Rozier, IB, 1983 (12 games)	274-2,148	29 TD
2. Ahman Green, IB, 1997 (12)	278-1,877	12
3. Lawrence Phillips, IB, 1994 (12)	286-1,722	16
4. Mike Rozier, IB, 1982 (12)	242-1,689	15
5. Ken Clark, IB, 1988 (12)	232-1,497	12
6. Jammal Lord, QB, 2002 (14)	251-1,412	8
7. Bobby Reynolds, HB, 1950 (9)	193-1,342	19
8. Derek Brown, IB, 1991 (11)	230-1,313	14
9. I.M. Hipp, IB, 1977 (11)	197-1,301	10
10. Dahrran Diedrick, IB, (11)	233-1,299	15
11. Rex Burkhead, IB (12)	261-1,268	15
12. Roy Helu, Jr., IB, (14)	188-1,245	11

BIG TEN TACKLE LEADERS*

PLAYER, POSITION (YEARS)	YARDS	TD	100 YD GAMES
1. Mike Rozier, IB (1981-82-83)	668-4,780 (7.16)	49	26
2. Ahman Green, IB (1995-96-97)	574-3,880 (6.76)	42	20
3. Eric Crouch, QB (1998-99-00-01)	648-3,434 (5.30)	59	17
4. Roy Helu, Jr., IB (2007-08-09-10)	578-3,404 (5.89)	28	10
5. Calvin Jones, IB (1991-92-93)	461-3,153 (6.84)	40	16
6. Ken Clark, IB (1987-88-89)	494-3,037 (6.15)	29	12
7. I.M. Hipp, IB (1977-78-79)	495-2,814 (5.68)	21	10
8. Lawrence Phillips, IB (1993-94-95)	449-2,777 (6.18)	30	15
9. Dahrran Diedrick, IB (1999-00-01-02)	502-2,745 (5.47)	26	8
10. Cory Ross, IB (2002-03-04-05)	597-2,743 (4.59)	17	12
11. Derek Brown, IB (1990-91-92)	458-2,699 (5.89)	23	12
12. Jammal Lord, QB (2000-01-02-03)	516-2,573 (4.99)	24	8
13. Rex Burkhead, IB (2009-10-11)	514-2,565 (4.99)	25	11
14. Correll Buckhalter, IB (1997-98-99-00)	413-2,522 (6.11)	27	11



South Carolina Gamecocks

Nebraska, South Carolina meet in Capital One Bowl for first time since 1987 | TERRY DOUGLASS

While it has been nearly a quarter of a century since Nebraska and South Carolina squared off on the gridiron, the Cornhuskers have more of a recent history with Gamecocks' head coach Steve Spurrier.

Current NU athletics director Tom Osborne guided the Huskers to a 62-24 victory over the Spurrier-led Florida Gators in the Fiesta Bowl to capture the 1995 national

championship. Spurrier left the Gators following the 2001 season and coached the NFL's Washington Redskins in 2002 and 2003 before returning to the college game at South Carolina in 2005.

BCS No. 20-ranked Nebraska (9-3, 5-3 Big Ten) and No. 9 South Carolina (10-2, 6-2 SEC) will play for the first time since 1987 when they meet at noon CST on Jan. 2 in the Capital One Bowl at

Orlando, Fla. The Huskers have won all three previous games between the two schools, including the last meeting, 27-24, in Columbia, S.C.

Although Spurrier has a reputation as an offensive guru, the strength of this year's South Carolina squad is on the other side of the ball. The Gamecocks rank 13th nationally in scoring defense, allowing an average of 18.8 points per game.

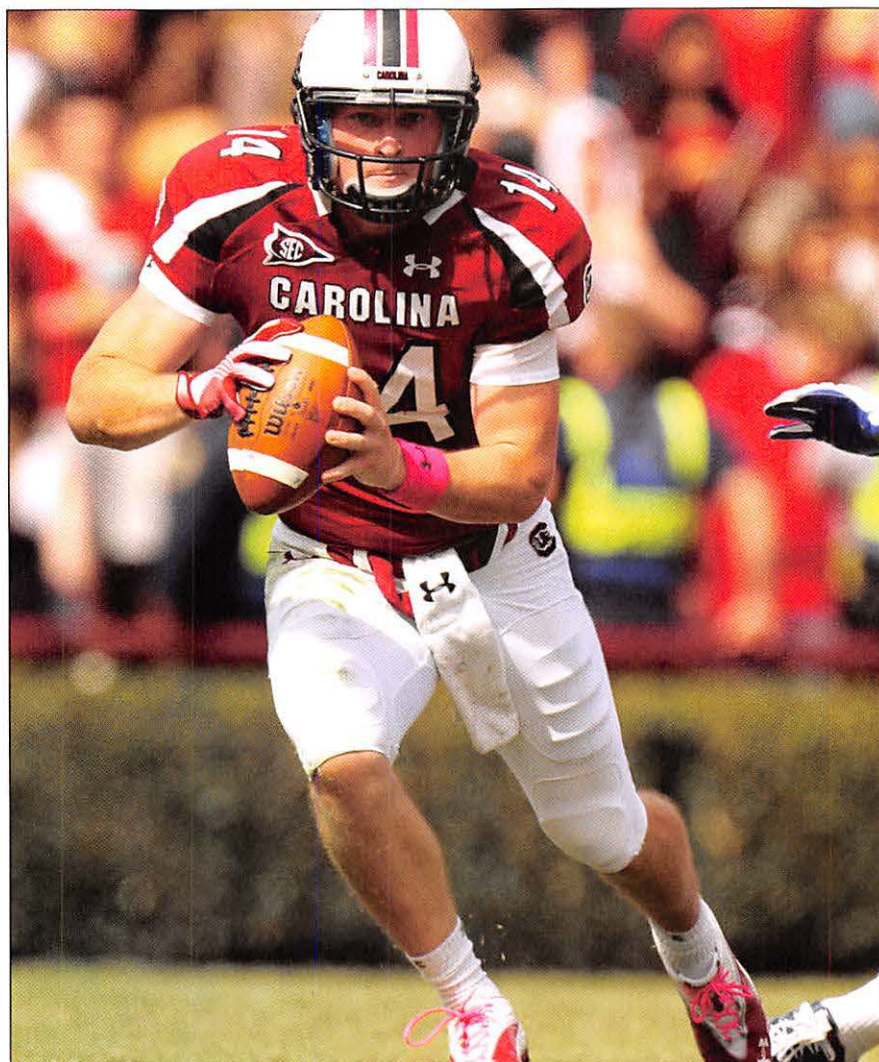


PHOTO COURTESY SOUTH CAROLINA MEDIA RELATIONS

Quarterback Connor Shaw completed 112-of-171 pass attempts (65.5 completion percentage) in 2011 for 1,218 yards, 12 touchdowns and 6 interceptions. He also rushed for 483 yards and 7 scores in just 9 games.



Steve Spurrier

Resume: Steve Spurrier, who won the 1966 Heisman Trophy while playing at Florida, has a 54-35 coaching record in his seventh season at South Carolina. Spurrier has a 196-75-2 overall mark in the college ranks and coached the Gators to six SEC championships and one national title (1996).

KNOW YOUR FOE

Connor Shaw, 6-1, 204, So., QB



Guided South Carolina to a 6-1 record after taking over as the full-time starter on Oct. 8. Completed 65.5

percent of his pass attempts for 12 touchdowns and his favorite target is wide receiver Alshon Jeffery (45 receptions for 614 yards and seven TDs).

Brandon Wilds, 6-1, 223, Fr., RB



Despite not playing in South Carolina's first three games of the season, Wilds has filled in admirably for

former Heisman Trophy candidate Marcus Lattimore, who suffered a season-ending knee injury. Wilds has three 100-yard games, rushing for 486 yards and three TDs.

Melvin Ingram, 6-2, 276, Sr., DE



Ingram was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-America team.

He led South Carolina with 13.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks to go with two interceptions and three TDs, including a 68-yard run on a fake punt in a win over Georgia.

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	East Carolina W, 56-37
9/10	at Georgia W, 45-42
9/17	Navy W, 24-21
9/24	Vanderbilt W, 21-3
10/1	Auburn L, 16-13
10/8	Kentucky W, 54-3
10/15	at Mississippi St. W, 14-12
10/29	at Tennessee W, 14-3
11/5	at Arkansas L, 44-28
11/12	Florida W, 17-12
11/19	Citadel W, 41-20
11/26	Clemson W, 34-13
1/2	vs. Nebraska*

*-Capital One Bowl at Orlando, Fla.

SOUTH CAROLINA ROSTER

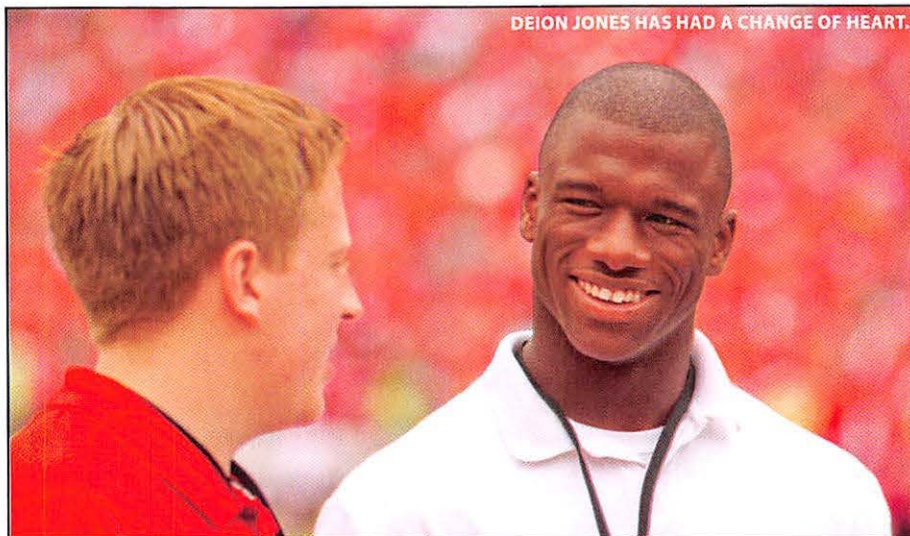
#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	
12	Andrew Clifford	QB	6-2	212	RS SO	Tampa, Fla./Wharton	7	Jadeveon Clowney	DE	6-6	254	FR	Rock Hill, S.C./South Pointe	
15	Austin Hails	QB	6-2	215	FR	Collinsville, Ill./Collinsville	44	Gerald Dixon	DE	6-2	271	FR	Rock Hill, S.C./South Pointe	
19	Tanner McEvoy	QB	6-6	207	FR	Hillsdale, N.J./Bergen Catholic	57	Aldrick Fordham	DE	6-3	274	JR	Jamestown, S.C./Timberland	
14	Connor Shaw	QB	6-1	204	SO	Flowery Branch, Ga./Flowery Branch	96	Jamal Hall	DE	6-2	216	RS SO	Ladson, S.C./Fort Dorchester/Brevard College	
13	Seth Strickland	QB	6-2	194	RS JR	Laurens, S.C./Laurens	34	Mason Harris	DE	6-3	208	FR	Fort Oglethorpe, Ga./Ridgeland	
17	Dylan Thompson	QB	6-3	213	RS FR	Boiling Springs, S.C./Boiling Springs	6	Melvin Ingram	DE	6-2	276	RS SR	Hamlet, N.C./Richmond County	
							92	Byron McKnight	DE	6-5	235	RS SR	Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland County	
							90	Chaz Sutton	DE	6-4	250	RS SO	Savannah, Ga./Jenkins/Fork Union Military	
							98	Devin Taylor	DE	6-7	260	RS JR	Beaufort, S.C./Beaufort	
							95	Gerald Dixon, Jr.	DT	6-3	311	FR	Rock Hill, S.C./Northwestern	
							52	Phillip Dukes	DT	6-3	300	FR	Manning, S.C./Manning	
							93	Deon Green	DT	6-3	266	FR	Windermere, Fla./Olympia	
							70	Byron Jerideau	DT	6-1	319	RS JR	Green Pond, S.C./Colleton County/Fort Scott C.C.	
							99	Kelcy Quarles	DT	6-4	271	FR	Hodges, S.C./Greenwood/Fork Union Military	
							42	Travian Robertson	DT	6-4	303	RS SR	Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland County	
							94	Corey Robinson	DT	6-8	350	RS FR	Havelock, N.C./Havelock	
							97	J.T. Surratt	DT	6-2	297	RS FR	Winston-Salem, N.C./Parkland	
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	EXP.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
59	Coleman Harley	LS	6-2	265	FR	Aiken, S.C./South Aiken	32	Reginald Bowens	LB	6-2	248	RS JR		Holly Springs, N.C./Garner
91	Walker Inabinet	LS	5-10	199	RS JR	Columbia, S.C./Hammond School	18	Cedrick Cooper	LB	6-2	207	FR		Lithonia, Ga./Lithonia
62	Davis Moore	LS	6-0	216	RS SO	Buford, Ga./Mill Creek/Emory & Henry	43	Qua Gilchrist	LB	6-1	244	RS JR		Abbeville, S.C./Abbeville/Butler County CC
61	Travis Ford	OC	6-3	278	RS SO	Fork, S.C./Lake View/Coastal Carolina	29	Chaun Gresham	LB	6-2	265	RS SO		Auburn, Ga./Apalachee
55	T.J. Johnson	OC	6-5	316	RS JR	Aynor, S.C./Aynor	33	Damario Jeffery	LB	6-3	237	JR		Columbia, S.C./Columbia
74	Kaleb Broome	OG	6-6	326	JR	Aiken, S.C./Aiken/Georgia Military College	20	Edward Muldrow	LB	6-3	190	FR		Snellville, Ga./South Gwinnett
60	Terrence Campbell	OG	6-3	296	RS SR	Austell, Ga./South Cobb	45	Rodney Paulk	LB	6-0	242	RS SR		Columbia, S.C./Richland Northeast
50	A.J. Cann	OG	6-3	299	RS FR	Bamberg, S.C./Bamberg-Ehrhardt	24	Quin Smith	LB	6-1	238	JR		Lenoir, N.C./Hibriten
58	Ryland Culbertson	OG	6-4	252	RS FR	Laurens, S.C./Laurens Academy	17	Angelo Watley	LB	6-1	225	FR		Lawrenceville, Ga./Peachtree Ridge
72	Kenny Davis	OG	6-3	318	RS JR	Newberry, S.C./Newberry	54	Shaq Wilson	LB	5-11	223	RS JR		Jacksonville, Fla./First Coast
67	Ronald Patrick	OG	6-1	302	SO	Cocoa, Fla./Cocoa	26	Antonio Allen	SPUR	6-2	202	SR		Ocala, Fla./Trinity Catholic/Fork Union Military
70	Kyle Harris	OL	6-3	273	FR	Silver Creek, Ga./Pepperell	21	DeVonte Holloman	SPUR	6-2	232	JR		Charlotte, N.C./South Pointe
76	Mike Matulis	OL	6-5	274	FR	Boynton Beach, Fla./Park Vista	31	Matt O'Brien	SPUR	6-0	188	RS SO		New Milford, N.J./Bergen Catholic
75	Will Sport	OL	6-5	282	FR	Milton, Fla./Pace	48	Marcus Roberts	SPUR	6-0	218	FR		Powder Springs, Ga./McEachern
78	Cody Gibson	OT	6-6	284	RS FR	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln								
68	Kyle Nunn	OT	6-6	295	RS SR	Sumter, S.C./Sumter	#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	
71	Brandon Shell	OT	6-6	322	FR	Goose Creek, S.C./Goose Creek	3	Akeem Auguste	CB	5-10	182	SR		Hollywood, Fla./Chaminade-Madonna/Fork Union
73	Rokevious Watkins	OT	6-4	340	RS SR	Fairburn, Ga./Creekside/Georgia Military	1	Ahmad Christian	CB	5-10	182	FR		Jacksonville, Fla./Trinity Christian
							5	Stephon Gilmore	CB	6-1	193	JR		Rock Hill, S.C./South Pointe
#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	27	Victor Hampton	CB	5-10	187	RS FR		Darlington, S.C./Darlington
40	Billy Byrne	FB	5-11	235	RS SO	Palm Harbor, Fla./East Lake	35	Ben Harvey	CB	5-9	176	FR		Columbia, Md./Our Lady of Good Counsel
48	Matt Coffee	FB	5-11	230	SO	Mary Esther, Fla./Fort Walton Beach	15	Jimmy Legree	CB	5-11	185	RS SO		Beaufort, S.C./Beaufort
41	Connor McLaurin	FB	6-0	227	RS FR	Raleigh, N.C./Garner	25	Kadetrax Marcus	CB	6-1	183	FR		Stone Mountain, Ga./Stephenson
46	Dalton Wilson	FB	6-0	227	RS JR	Williston, S.C./Williston-Elko	39	Marty Markett	CB	5-10	162	RS SR		York, S.C./York Comprehensive
7	Shon Carson	RB	5-8	190	FR	Scranton, S.C./Lake City	8	Martay Mattox	CB	6-1	192	FR		Athens, Ga./Clarke Central
28	Eric Baker	TB		208	RS JR	Jacksonville, Fla./Edward H. White/Fork Union Military	10	Cadarius Sanders	CB	6-0	184	RS FR		LaGrange, Ga./Troup County
43	Jacob Baker	TB	5-9	191	RS JR	Ridgeland, S.C./Thomas Heyward Academy	12	C.C. Whitlock	CB	5-10	178	SR		Chester, S.C./Chester
34	Joshua Blue	TB	5-6	178	RS FR	Tatum, S.C./Marlboro County	51	Kenny Robinson	FS	5-9	178	RS FR		Hilton Head Island, S.C./Hilton Head Island
24	Josh Hinch	TB	5-7	183	RS SR	Knoxville, Tenn./Austin East/MidAmerica Nazarene	4	Sheldon Royster	FS	5-11	187	FR		Woodbridge, N.J./St. Peter's Prep
21	Marcus Lattimore	TB		232	SO	Duncan, S.C./Byrnes	11	Brison Williams	FS	5-10	206	FR		Warner Robins, Ga./Northside/Fork Union
31	Kenny Miles	TB	5-10	193	RS JR	Lawrenceville, Ga./Brookwood	40	Josh Woods	FS	5-10	180	RS SO		Spartanburg, S.C./Gaffney/South Carolina State
22	Brandon Wilds	TB	6-1	223	FR	Blythewood, S.C./Blythewood	30	Corey Addison	SS	6-0	204	RS SO		Jacksonville, Fla./Andrew Jackson
							9	Sharrod Golightly	SS	5-10	185	RS FR		Decatur, Ga./Southwest Dekalb
#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	36	D.J. Swearingen	SS	5-10	208	JR		Greenwood, S.C./Greenwood
81	Rory Anderson	TE	6-5	207	FR	Powder Springs, Ga./McEachern	#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	
16	Payton Brady	TE	6-3	226	RS JR	Lincolnton, N.C./E. Lincoln/Charleston S./Campbell	85	Patrick Fish	P	5-11	193	RS FR		Shelby, N.C./Burns
87	Justice Cunningham	TE	6-3	265	JR	Pageland, S.C./Central	84	Mike Williamson	P	6-1	188	RS SO		Norway, S.C./Orangeburg Prep/Columbia University
88	Drew Owens	TE	6-5	241	FR	Charlotte, N.C./Ardrey Kell	47	Landon Ard	P/K	5-10	175	FR		Rock Hill, S.C./South Pointe
89	Corey Simmons	TE	6-4	260	RS FR	Lawrenceville, Ga./Greater Atlanta Christian	49	Joey Scribner-Howard	P/K		210	RS SR		Irmo, S.C./Dutch Fork/Carson-Newman
4	Jason Barnes	WR	6-4	214	RS SR	Charlotte, N.C./Independence	18	Jay Wooten	P/K	6-3	204	RS SR		Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland County/North Carolina
80	K.J. Brent	WR	6-3	180	FR	Waxhaw, N.C./Marvin Ridge	81	Adam Yates	PK	6-1	213	RS JR		Sparks, MD/Hereford
83	Zach Broome	WR	6-2	201	RS FR	Richmond Hill, Ga./Armstrong Atlantic St.								
3	Damiere Byrd	WR	5-9	161	FR	Sicklerville, N.J./Timber Creek								
23	Bruce Ellington	WR	5-9	197	RS FR	Moncks Corner, S.C./Berkeley								
85	Riley Gallaher	WR	6-1	175	FR	Apex, N.C./Garner								
1	Alshon Jeffery	WR	6-4	229	JR	St. Matthews, S.C./Calhoun County								
8	Shamier Jeffery	WR	6-1	208	FR	St. Matthews, S.C./Calhoun County								
10	Nick Jones	WR	5-9	188	RS FR	Moore, S.C./Byrnes								
86	Blair Lowery	WR	6-0	180	RS JR	Irmo, S.C./Dutch Fork								
82	D.L. Moore	WR	6-4	203	RS JR	Bowling Green, Ky./Bowling Green								
9	Ace Sanders	WR	5-7	175	SO	Bradenton, Fla./Manatee								
11	Lamar Scruggs	WR	6-3	218	RS SO	Jacksonville Beach, Fla./Fletcher								
6	DeAngelo Smith	WR	6-0	193	RS SO	Kingsland, Ga./Camden County								



BY MIKE SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Jones decommits

Huskers lose commitment of New Orleans linebacker after top-ranked LSU offers



DEION JONES HAS HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.

The long wait for a commitment not only continued for the Cornhuskers, the situation actually got worse. Nebraska lost a commitment in its 2012 class, as **DEION JONES** choose to de-commit from the Huskers in favor of the LSU Tigers.

Jones, a resident of New Orleans had been committed to Nebraska since August. The linebacker chose the Huskers over a few other schools, but said during the process he was disappointed LSU and Alabama hadn't offered him. The linebacker proceeded to put together a strong 2011 campaign for Jesuit, finishing his senior season with 118 tackles, 11 sacks, five forced fumbles and three interceptions.

The linebacker initially chose Nebraska because of the atmosphere, citing the festive nature of game day during his official visit.

"It was crazy," he said. "When we left the hotel and went over to the stadium and on the walkway to the stadium I saw all the fans and thought 'Oh my gosh, this is crazy' and just walking in the front door, it was just amazing."

In middle to late November, however, Jones received an offer from his home-state Tigers and it changed everything for the 17-year-old. Instead of traveling several hundred miles away, Jones could stay close to home.

Nebraska's **COREY RAYMOND** visited Jones during the first week of the Huskers' bowl season. The Huskers had intended to bring Bo Pelini back for a home visit, but Jones' de-commitment changed plans.

The Huskers currently have seven commitments in the 2012 class and will now be looking for another linebacker to replace Jones. Nebraska

has commitments from 4-star linebacker **MICHAEL ROSE** and 3-star linebacker **ZAIRE ANDERSON**.

HUSKERS TARGET LAMBERT

The loss of Jones has had serious repercussions for Nebraska's 2012 class, but a commitment from **QUANZELL LAMBERT** would quickly smooth over everything. The Sicklerville, N.J., native has dominated for Timber Creek High over the course of his career and his 6-foot-3, 240-pound frame would be a welcome addition to the Husker linebacking corps.

Lambert received an in-home visit from Bo Pelini at the beginning of the visitation period. The linebacker was the first player Pelini visited in the open period. That alone was a huge honor for the player.

"It makes me feel very

welcome and that they care a lot about me and everything," he said.

Lambert said he appreciates the way Pelini and assistant coach Ross Els handled the visit, opting for a straightforward, no-pressure approach.

"He's definitely a great guy," Lambert said. "He's honest and he'll definitely get after you. There's nothing that he's trying to hide. He tells what it's like."

Nebraska received some other good news regarding Lambert later in the week, as the linebacker dropped both Alabama and Oklahoma from his list. Neither school has a spot available for the player.

The Huskers will look to win Lambert over Iowa, Northwestern and Rutgers.

DEFENSIVE BACKFIELD STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE

There's little doubt the Huskers' focus for the 2012 class is aimed at improving a weak secondary. Nebraska looks to add several players at cornerback and safety. The top target for the Huskers remains **MARCUS RIOS** of Elk Grove, Calif.

Rios, a 4-star cornerback, recently visited Nebraska for the Iowa game. He called it a near-perfect visit and had nothing but kind words for the support system Nebraska has for its athletes.

Since returning to Elk Grove, Rios has met with coaches from several programs, including Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish

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appear to be making a late move for the cornerback, sending out secondary coach Chuck Martin to evaluate Rios.

However, because of his early-entry plans, Rios has already filled out paperwork to enroll for the January semester at Nebraska. The Huskers sent assistant coach John Garrison to visit with Rios during the first week of the visitation period and secondary coach Corey Raymond is expected to make another visit in December.

While Nebraska has emerged as a clear favorite for Rios, the situation is a little less clear for **MOHAMMED SEISAY**. The talented cornerback from Eastern Arizona College visited for the Northwestern game and had been high on Nebraska, now has offers from Arkansas and Florida State.

Seisay told 247Sports he would make his decision among those three schools by Dec. 20. He still has visits with Arkansas and Florida State.

The Huskers lost Jones, but could also be the beneficiary of a de-commitment as well. Nebraska has been contacted by a 4-star cornerback in **A.J. LEGGETT** of Miami, Fla. Leggett had been committed to Miami, but Hurricane coaches informed him that he wouldn't meet certain academic standards.

Leggett has stated he's interested in Florida State, Nebraska and Ohio State. He's expected to take a visit this month.

SPEAKING OF SAFETIES

The safety position on defense features several big names, but the situation isn't much clearer for Nebraska. Everything starts with **JORDAN DIGGS**, a 4-star safety from Island Coast High in Cape Coral, Fla.

Nebraska has gone hard after Diggs for a long time and the Florida resident has been to Memorial Stadium twice this year. He's become good friends with Nebraska commit **MICHAEL ROSE** and has spoken

highly about the school at every opportunity. However, much to the chagrin of Husker fans, Diggs has taken all five of his visits. The safety took officials to Michigan State, South Carolina, Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

Coaches have stopped by from each school to visit with Diggs, but the only head coach that has been by to see Diggs so far is Pelini.

"That was kind of cool," Diggs told 247Sports. "He was the first head coach to come by. He talked with my mom for a while. I took him around the neighborhood and was telling him about my childhood. I let him get a good feel for me. I introduced him to several of my neighbors. It was pretty cool."

Diggs doesn't plan to announce his decision until the Army All-American Bowl on Jan. 7.

While the Huskers are waiting on Diggs, they'll likely receive a visit this month from another 4-star safety in **LADARRELL MCNEIL**, who had previously been committed to Tennessee.

McNeil is considering a host of teams, including Miami, Notre Dame, Tennessee and Texas Tech.

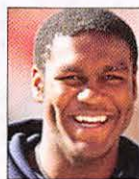
A safety to watch for the next month is **MARQUES MOSLEY**. The Upland, Calif., High prospect caught the attention of the Husker coaching staff while they were watching film of other Upland players.

Nebraska brought Mosley in for a visit along with teammate Christian Powell for the Northwestern game. While on campus, Nebraska had Mosley meet with Raymond to discuss the possibility of playing safety for the Huskers. Nebraska still hasn't offered the talented athlete and appears to be waiting to see how things shake out with a few other recruits.

Mosley loved his time in Lincoln, and the Huskers remain on the top of his list. He recently received offers from Colorado and Oregon State.

Read daily recruiting updates from Mike Schaefer at HuskersIllustrated.com

2012 NEBRASKA COMMITS



★★★★

GREG MCMULLEN

DE, 6-5, 225, Akron, Ohio
(Archbishop Hoban)
247Sports Rating: 94



★★★★

MICHAEL ROSE

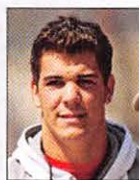
LB, 6-0, 225, Kansas City Mo.
(Rockhurst)
247Sports Rating: 93



★★★★

PAUL THURSTON

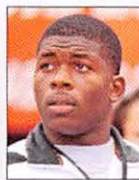
OT, 6-5, 275, Arvada, Colo.
(Arvada West)
247Sports Rating: 92



★★★★

JORDAN WESTERKAMP

WR, 6-1, 190, Lombard, Ill.
(Montini Catholic)
247Sports Rating: 90



★★★

TOMMY ARMSTRONG

QB, 6-1, 200, Schertz, Texas
(Byron P Steele)
247Sports Rating: 86



★★★

ZAIRE ANDERSON

LB, 6-0, 220, Riverside, Calif.
(Riverside CC)
247Sports Rating: 85



★★★

SAM COTTON

TE, 6-4, 235, Lincoln, Neb.
(Lincoln Southeast)
247Sports Rating: 81

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Team learns lessons as one goal falls short

NU's road to the National Championship ends in loss to K-State at home | BOB HAMAR

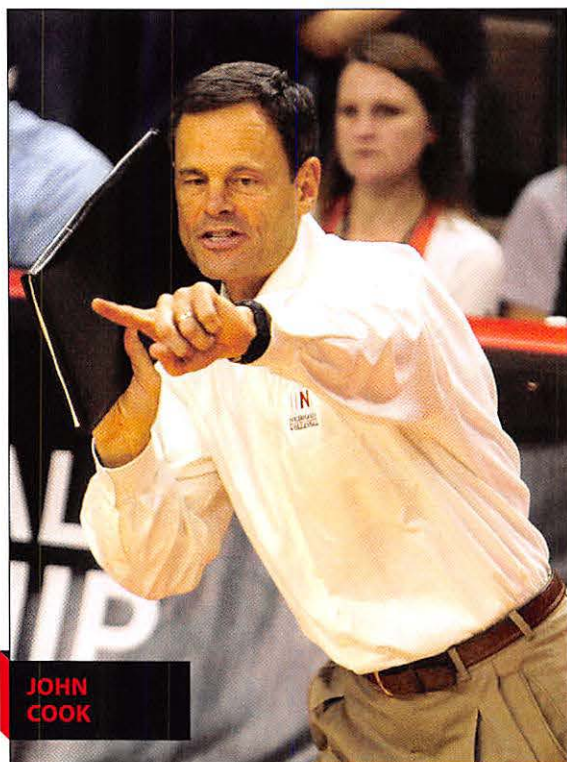


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

JOHN COOK'S NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL TEAM HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THE SEASON.

The Huskers accomplished some of their goals – such as winning the Big Ten Conference championship – but they fell way short of the biggest goal of winning the school's fourth national championship.

That dream died much earlier than expected with a five-set loss to Kansas State on Dec. 2 at the NU Coliseum. The Wildcats played what coach Susie Fritz said was the team's best volleyball of the season. The Huskers did

not. They played their best volleyball back in October when they opened the Big Ten Conference season with 11 straight wins.

"It was a great match by K-State," Cook said. "They did everything they needed to do to win. They played great. They never let up on the gas. They won all the big points. The coaches did a great job and the players did a great job."

The Huskers, on the other hand, struggled as they attempted to find that

same consistency that they had earlier this season.

"In October, we were the best team in the country," Cook said, but things unraveled somewhat down the stretch.

Other things may have interfered – such as Lauren Cook's legal problems after being charged with leaving the scene of an accident. John Cook said this was not an easy season for him as a coach, that there were other things going on that never made the newspapers.

"There is always outside interference that goes on," John Cook said. "That's part of it."

The Huskers clinched the outright Big Ten Conference title in their next-to-last regular-season game at Iowa. They followed that with a 3-1 loss at Northwestern in the regular-season finale.

The problems the Huskers were having late in the regular season popped up again against Kansas State.

"We beat Iowa at Iowa," Cook said. "The Northwestern match was shaky. Last night was not a real good test, but I saw a lot of that (against Kansas State). Just inconsistent

Been there, done that

Nebraska now holds an 82-4 lead in the all-time series against Kansas State. KSU coach Susie Fritz also coached the Wildcats to a win in the NU Coliseum in 2003.

"We have tremendous team chemistry," Fritz said after the win over Nebraska. "We have 15 kids devoted wholeheartedly to the success of the team. I think that's rare, and it's a big part of why we're doing what we're doing."

No Regional this year

The loss to Kansas State in the second round marked the first time since 1993 that the Huskers failed to advance to regional play. Their 17 consecutive trips to regionals were the longest active streak in the nation, nine longer than any other school.

Dykstra digs it

Freshman libero Lara Dykstra finished the season with 399 digs. That's the most digs ever for a freshman at Nebraska. Kayla Banwarth, who finished her career in 2010, is the all-time career leader with 1,706 digs.

All-Big Ten

The Huskers were well represented when the All-Big Ten teams came out. Lauren Cook, Gina Mancuso and Hannah Werth were first-team selections, while Morgan Broekhuis and Brooke Delano received honorable mention.

It was Werth's and Delano's second consecutive all-conference honor, while the other three Huskers were recognized for the first time in their careers.

Nebraska and Penn State both had three first-team honorees. The Big Ten Conference doesn't name a second team, just first team and honorable mention.

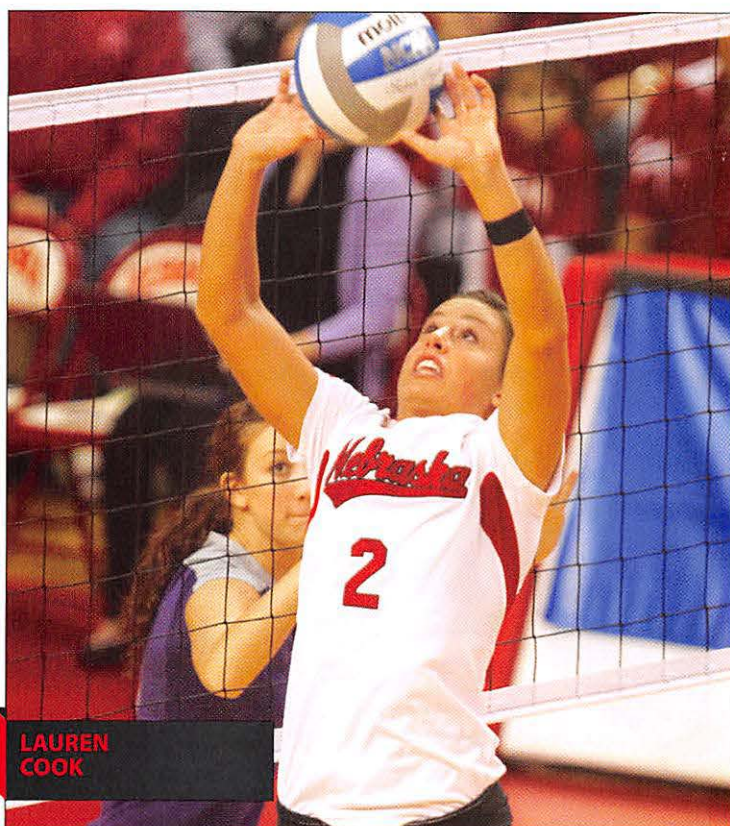
In addition, senior Brigitte Root was selected as a Sportsmanship Award honoree.

2011 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
AUG. 20	RED/WHITE MATCH	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
<i>MCM ELEGANTE LOBO CLASSIC</i>			
AUG. 26	NEW MEXICO ST.	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-2 (W)
AUG. 27	NEW MEXICO	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 2	COLORADO STATE	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	2-3 (L)
SEPT. 3	ALBANY	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	3-0 (W)
<i>AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE</i>			
SEPT. 8	CREIGHTON	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 9	ST. MARY'S	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
SEPT. 10	WEBER STATE	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 17	IOWA STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 21	PENN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
SEPT. 24	OHIO STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
SEPT. 30	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	3-2 (W)
OCT. 1	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	3-0 (W)
OCT. 7	PURDUE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
OCT. 8	INDIANA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
OCT. 14	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	3-0 (W)
OCT. 15	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	3-2 (W)
OCT. 19	IOWA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
OCT. 22	ILLINOIS*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
OCT. 28	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	3-1 (W)
OCT. 29	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	1-3 (L)
NOV. 4	MICHIGAN*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
NOV. 5	MICHIGAN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
NOV. 11	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	3-0 (W)
NOV. 12	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	0-3 (L)
NOV. 16	MINNESOTA*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
NOV. 19	WISCONSIN*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
NOV. 23	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA	3-0 (W)
NOV. 26	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	1-3 (L)
<i>NCAA TOURNAMENT</i>			
DEC. 1	JACKSON STATE	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
DEC. 2	KANSAS STATE	NU COLISEUM	2-3 (L)
DEC. 9-10	REGIONALS		TBA
(AT LEXINGTON/GAINESVILLE/HONOLULU/MINNEAPOLIS)			
DEC. 15-17	FINAL FOUR	AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	TBA

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



LAUREN
COOK

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

passing. Again, just relying on our athleticism to make plays and that only gets you so far. You have to play good volleyball and control the ball and really control that first contact. Kansas State totally outworked us in that area."

Twenty-five hitting errors and 11 service errors, including five in the opening set, did the Huskers in.

"We were just high-error," Cook said. "We were missing serves. We weren't passing. We didn't pass the ball all night. Our first contact wasn't consistent. It was hard to get in a rhythm. We were relying on our athleticism and taking way too many out-of-system swings. We just couldn't put any pressure on Kansas State when we needed too."

And Kansas State made the plays. The Wildcats limited the Husker runs and played their best volleyball of the season.

"It seemed like every ball that went over, if it wasn't a kill it was

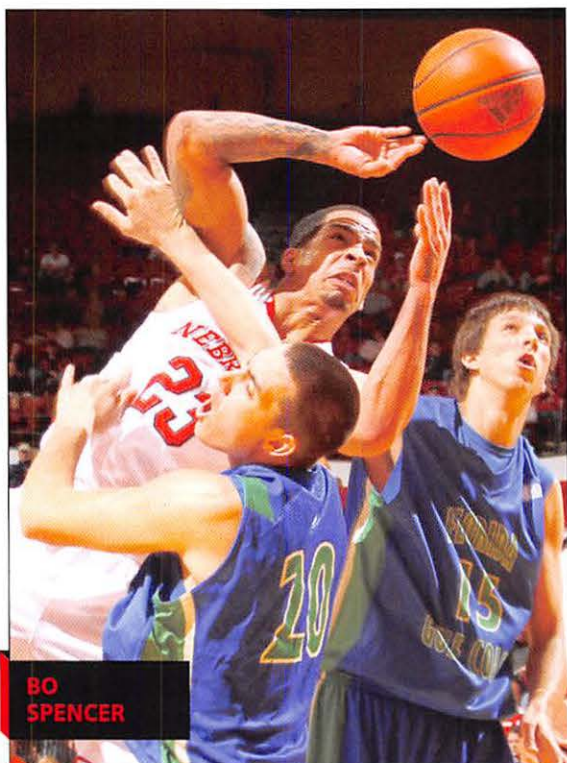
a free ball right to the setter," Nebraska senior middle blocker Brooke Delano said. "Even if it wasn't a free ball, they willed the ball to the setter. All four years that we've played Kansas State, I've never seen them work that hard or play that well."

As a big underdog, Kansas State had nothing to lose. Few expected the Wildcats to win, so they were able to just go out and play. The Huskers, on the other hand, were expected to win.

"Maybe the weight of the expectations on us wore us down a little bit. Maybe the grind of the Big Ten," Cook said. "As I told the girls, we still had a heck of a season. We accomplished all our goals but one, to win a national championship and there's only one team that's going to do that. Sports teaches us some great lessons, and we got taught some good lessons."

Huskers look to execute as conference schedule nears

Tough losses to Wake Forest and Creighton has NU refocusing | BRIAN ROSENTHAL



BO SPENCER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SOMETIMES, BASKETBALL COACHES CAN'T SLEEP AFTER CLOSE, PAINFUL LOSSES.

And sometimes, they don't even try.

Such was the case with Nebraska's Doc Sadler in the wake of his team's 55-53 home loss to Wake Forest in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge. Nebraska was a double-digit favorite over a team that was 8-24 last season and picked to finish second-to-last in the ACC.

An uncontested layup with 3.6 seconds left provided Wake Forest with the winning points and dropped Nebraska to

10-14 in games decided by one possession in six years under Sadler.

After the game, Sadler addressed his team, then the media, and then went to his office. He never left until the next day, when he had an athletic department luncheon to attend.

Sadler met with his staff until 4:30 a.m., then after laying on his office couch for about 90 minutes, began watching game film of Nebraska's next opponent, Creighton.

That game, four days later, didn't end much better. The Huskers lost to their in-state rival 76-66, a game in which Sadler picked up a technical foul midway through the second half of a one-point game.

The loss was Nebraska's third in four games, and left Sadler and his players scratching their heads. This is, after all, Sadler's best Nebraska team – by his own declaration – and nobody within the walls of the Hendricks Training Complex anticipated a 4-3 start.

"No way," senior guard Toney McCray said. "We thought we'd be undefeated by now. This is definitely not planned for our team."

"We work too hard as far as the pre-season goes and getting ready for this. Regardless of our record right now, we've got to go out there and play and make things happen for the team."

In no way is Sadler ready to proclaim Nebraska's NCAA Tournament hopes dead before Christmas. That's because of what happens two days after Christmas – Nebraska's first game

Injury slows Talley

Junior college transfer Dylan Talley, a 6-foot-5 shooting guard from Camden, N.J., was supposed to bring a needed scoring punch to Nebraska this season.

He did – for four games, when he was shooting 44.4 percent and averaging 12.5 points per game off the bench. Then he re-aggravated a thigh injury that had slowed him most of the offseason, and his numbers slipped.

Over his next three games, Talley shot 5-of-18 (27.7 percent) and didn't score in his 20 minutes at Creighton.

"He's not just able to play like he was earlier," Sadler said. "So I don't know what we're going to do. It is an issue, though. He has no legs."

Hilliard sidelined

Freshman Corey Hilliard played in two of Nebraska's first four games and has since been sidelined by an injury.

Sadler hasn't confirmed what the injury is, or if it may keep Hilliard from playing long term. Hilliard hasn't been able to participate in practices.

A 6-foot-1 point guard from Kansas City, Mo., Hilliard averaged 17.4 points and three assists as a senior at Raytown South. He scored six points in four minutes against Rhode Island, his most action of the season.

Two redshirting

Two Huskers are planning redshirts for this season, but neither is a true freshman.

Junior guard Ray Gallegos approached Sadler during pre-season practices, expressing his desire to sit out this season. Sadler said that will be the case, unless injuries dictate that Nebraska needs Gallegos.

Meanwhile, senior center Andre Almeida is redshirting because he's not healthy enough to contribute. Almeida had knee surgery in April and never fully recovered, slowing his conditioning progress.

11-12 Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
NOV. 7	DOANE (EXH)	DEVANEY CENTER	76-54 (W)
NOV. 11	SOUTH DAKOTA	DEVANEY CENTER	65-48 (W)
NOV. 14	USC	AT LOS ANGELES, CA	64-61 OT (W)
NOV. 20	RHODE ISLAND	DEVANEY CENTER	83-63 (W)
NOV. 23	OREGON	DEVANEY CENTER	76-83 (L)
NOV. 26	SOUTH DAKOTA ST	DEVANEY CENTER	76-64 (W)
NOV. 30	WAKE FOREST	DEVANEY CENTER	53-55 (W)
DEC. 4	CREIGHTON	AT OMAHA, NEB.	66-76 (L)
DEC. 7	FL. GULF COAST	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
DEC. 10	TCU	AT FORTH WORTH, TEX.	7 P.M.
DEC. 17	ALCORN STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
DEC. 20	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
DEC. 27	WISCONSIN*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
DEC. 31	MICHIGAN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	2 P.M.
JAN. 3	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	5:30 P.M.
JAN. 7	ILLINOIS*	AT CHAMPAIGN, ILL.	NOON
JAN. 11	PENN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	7:30 P.M.
JAN. 15	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WISC.	5 P.M.
JAN. 18	INDIANA*	DEVANEY CENTER	6 P.M.
JAN. 21	OHIO STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
JAN. 26	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA	6 P.M.
FEB. 2	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	6 P.M.
FEB. 5	MINNESOTA*	DEVANEY CENTER	NOON
FEB. 8	MICHIGAN*	DEVANEY CENTER	7:30 P.M.
FEB. 11	PENN STATE*	AT STATE COLLEGE, PA.	NOON
FEB. 18	ILLINOIS*	DEVANEY CENTER	4 P.M.
FEB. 22	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	5:30 P.M.
FEB. 25	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	7 P.M.
FEB. 29	IOWA*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
MAR. 3	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	11:30 A.M.
MAR. 8-11	BIG TEN TOURNAMENT	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL. DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

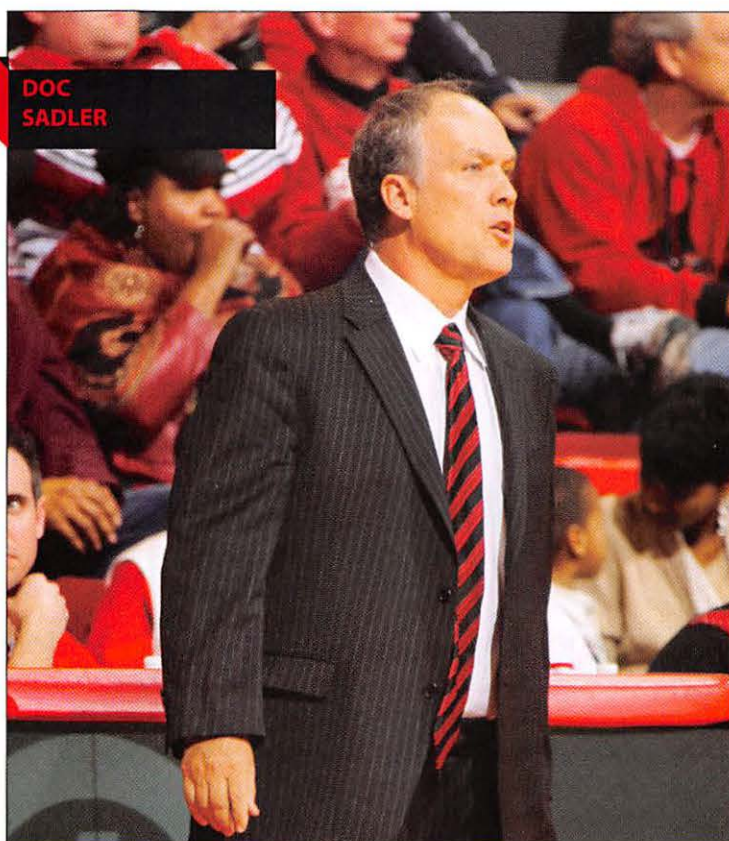


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

as a member of the Big Ten Conference.

"That's the bonus of being in this league," Sadler said. "We could lose more (non-conference) games, but if you go 10-8 in the league, you're going to get in the (NCAA) Tournament."

The question, of course, is whether Nebraska can go 10-8 in its first year in the rugged Big Ten – and if the Huskers' slip-ups in non-conference play will come back to haunt them, should they be in position to qualify for post-season play.

Nebraska begins the Big Ten season with six games against teams that qualified for last year's NCAA Tournament. That includes December home games against traditional Big Ten powers Wisconsin and Michigan State and a road game at Ohio State, ranked in the top five of the pre-season national rankings and picked to win the conference

championship.

A Jan. 11 home game against Penn State – picked last in the Big Ten – will likely mark the first time in five conference games that Nebraska will be favored to win.

The Huskers, as they've shown in recent years, are capable of pulling a surprise over an upper-level conference team at home. To string together a few victories (or at least avoid a losing streak) they'll need to come through in tight games at the end – unlike the Wake Forest game, when their coach suffered a sleepless night.

"I think we're close," McCray said. "It's not about playing hard or not having the guys to do it; it's about executing. We do it in practice, but we've got to go out and do it on the floor. We play so hard against each other in practice, we've got take what we're doing here and do it out there."

Hot start has Huskers excited about future

Freshmen making big contributions during winning non-conference season



BRANDI
JEFFERY

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

ON PAPER, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A REBUILDING YEAR FOR THE NEBRASKA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM.

In 2009-10, the Huskers put an exclamation point on eight years of continued growth and improvement with the best season in school history. Nebraska coach Connie Yori won every major National Coach-of-the-Year award by leading the Huskers to an unbeaten regular season, a 30-0 start, a Big 12 title, a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and the 2010 NCAA Sweet 16.

Last year, the Husker

roster not only lost six seniors from the 2009-10 team that finished 32-2 and 16-0 in the Big 12, it was also ravaged by injuries on its way to a 13-18 finish.

The 2011-12 Huskers have a new look and feel with four true freshmen and two redshirts making up half of the Huskers' 12-player roster. The change has done the Huskers good. NU got off to a 7-1 start and already owns wins over a pair of

top-25 foes (No. 23 USC, at No. 24 Florida State).

"Our freshmen have been huge for us," Yori said. "When you look at their production, they are averaging about 32 points and about 22 rebounds per game. Those are some really exciting numbers, considering they are just beginning to learn to play college basketball. We know we are going to have some ups and downs with them, but we also think they are going to get better because they have shown great attitudes and good work habits."

Nebraska's six-player freshman class includes 2011 Louisiana High School Player of the Year and Parade All-American Brandi Jeffery and 2010 Arizona High School Player of the Year Rebecca Woodberry. It also includes top-50 high school recruits Emily Cady from Nebraska Class B prep power Seward, Neb., High School and Tear'a Lauderhill from Canyon Springs High School in Riverside, Calif. Starter Hailie Sample (Flower Mound, Texas) and Californian Katie Simon not only round out the group, they have been major contributors.

"I think one of the

ROUNDBALL ROTATION

The Huskers have employed an 11-player rotation early in 2011-12, and all 11 players have supplied consistent contributions. Through eight games, Nebraska's five starters (Jordan Hooper, Lindsey Moore, Emily Cady, Kaitlyn Burke and Hailie Sample) combined to average 43.1 points and 23.8 rebounds per game. The six Huskers who have come off the bench combined to average 30.9 points and 18.4 rebounds per contest. Ten of the 11 Huskers were also averaging double-figure minutes per game.

FRESHMAN FOUNDATION

Nebraska's six freshmen all saw substantial playing time in the first eight games. Overall, the six newcomers combined for 251 points (31.4 ppg), 171 rebounds (21.4 rpg), 54 assists (6.8 apg) and 38 steals (4.8 spg) in 858 minutes through eight games. They helped the Huskers to wins over two USA Today/ESPN Coaches top 25 teams (No. 23 USC, at No. 24 Florida State). In all, Nebraska's freshmen have made up five of the Huskers' top eight scorers and four of NU's top five rebounders.

The six players they replaced on Nebraska's roster from a year ago combined to average just 25.8 points, 17.4 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 2.5 steals per game. Last year's team also went without a Top-25 victory.

CADY, JEFFERY PROVE THEMSELVES IN CRUNCH

Nebraska native Emily Cady started her first eight games and averaged five points and five rebounds per game. The 6-2 forward helped Class B power Seward, Neb., High to 75 consecutive victories and three state titles to close her prep career and showed her winning mentality by pouring in 14 points and grabbing five rebounds in NU's 66-63 win at No. 24 Florida State on Nov. 27. Cady's go-ahead lay-up with 39 seconds gave the Huskers a 62-60 lead they did not relinquish.

11-12 Women's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
OCT. 30	PITTSBURG ST (EXH)	DEVANEY CENTER	86-55 (W)
NOV. 6	NEB-KEARNEY (EXH)	DEVANEY CENTER	85-55 (W)
NOV. 12	ARK-PINE BLUFF	DEVANEY CENTER	95-43 (W)
NOV. 15	MISS. VALLEY STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	99-53 (W)
NOV. 18	#23 USC	DEVANEY CENTER	68-50 (W)
NOV. 21	SAVANNAH STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	70-50 (W)
NOV. 25	FLORIDA A&M	TALLAHASSEE, FL	72-64 (W)
NOV. 27	#24 FLORIDA STATE	TALLAHASSEE, FL	66-63 (W)
NOV. 30	GEORGIA TECH	ATLANTA, GA	57-73 (L)
DEC. 4	UT-PAN AMERICAN	DEVANEY CENTER	65-27 (W)
DEC. 8	CREIGHTON	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
DEC. 10	N. ARIZONA	FLAGSTAFF, AZ	2:35 PM
DEC. 18	VERMONT	DEVANEY CENTER	2:05 PM
DEC. 21	SOUTH DAKOTA ST	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
DEC. 30	*PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA	6 PM
JAN. 5	*INDIANA	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
JAN. 8	*IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	3 PM
JAN. 12	*WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS	6 PM
JAN. 15	*PENN STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	2:05 PM
JAN. 19	*OHIO STATE	COLUMBUS, OH	5 PM
JAN. 22	*MINNESOTA	DEVANEY CENTER	5 PM
JAN. 26	*IOWA	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
JAN. 29	*ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILL	NOON
FEB. 2	*PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, IND	7 PM
FEB. 9	*MICHIGAN	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
FEB. 13	*MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	6:30 PM
FEB. 16	*NORTHWESTERN	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
FEB. 19	*WISCONSIN	DEVANEY CENTER	1 PM
FEB. 23	*MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MI	5 OR 7
FEB. 26	*OHIO STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	11, 1 OR 3
MAR. 1-4	BIG TEN TOURNAMENT	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



EMILY
CADY

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

most exciting things is that all six freshmen are filling roles for us and have allowed us to play the way we want to play," Yori said. "We are playing an 11-player rotation and beating top-25 teams early in the year with a bunch of first-year players. They have accepted their roles, and they are also working hard every day to get better, so they can keep contributing and help us become a better team."

While the Huskers are extremely young, they also have a trio of returning starters to anchor them and help them navigate Nebraska's first year in the Big Ten Conference. Fifth-year senior guard Kaitlyn Burke is a three-year starter with tremendous leadership skills. The president of Nebraska's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is also one of 30 candidates for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award.

Lindsey Moore, the 2009 Washington High School Player of the Year and a Parade All-American, has returned to quarterback the Husker offense. The 5-9 point guard from Covington, Wash., is averaging 14 points and six assists a game and has greatly expanded her defensive presence, ranking second in the Big Ten with nearly three steals

per contest. The 2010 honorable-mention All-Big 12 selection will contend for All-Big Ten honors this season.

Two-time Nebraska High School Player of the Year Jordan Hooper (2008, 2010) has expanded her impressive game and is beginning to look like a contender for All-Big Ten and All-America honors. The 6-2 sophomore forward from Alliance, Neb., has added a stronger inside presence at both ends of the court for the young Huskers and is averaging nearly 18 points and nine rebounds per game.

Moore, who expects to have Hooper, the six freshmen, much-improved sophomore center Adrianna Maurer and fellow junior Meghin Williams as targets for her passes not only this season but also next season, is looking forward to growing with the young group.

"It's exciting to have a few more options this year," Moore said. "We have struggled at times early this year on offense because I think the younger players are still adjusting to the speed that everything is happening, but we are getting better and we're working hard to keep getting better."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

CELEBRATION

Tom Osborne gets the mandatory sideline shower compliments of senior co-captain and middle linebacker Phil Ellis near the end of the Huskers' 62-24 demolition of No. 2-ranked Florida in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl game to earn Osborne a second consecutive national championship. The Gators of the ol' ball coach Steve Spurrier, now the coach of Husker Capital One Bowl opponent South Carolina, featured a "Fun and Gun" offense that ranked second nationally in passing, third in scoring and fourth in total offense. The Gators averaged 44.5 points per game. But the Blackshirts were up to the task, sacking quarterback Danny Wuerffel seven times for 40 yards in losses and intercepting three of his 31 passes. Michael Booker returned one of the interceptions 42 yards for a touchdown. Terrell Farley led the Blackshirts with eight tackles and two of the sacks. The other Huskers shown are sophomore offensive guard Mike van Cleave (71) and junior wingback Jon Vedral (25).



HUSKERS
STRATED





25,786

SATISFIED PARTICIPANTS IN 2011



NEBRASKASPORTSCOUNCIL.COM





CATCHING UP WITH KEITH JONES

BY RANDY YORK

Gamecock-killing back now a stay-at-home dad

Yes, Keith Jones remembers playing South Carolina. How can he forget rushing for a team-leading 103 yards in Nebraska's 27-24 win at South Carolina in 1986, followed by another team-leading 129 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns a year later to help the Huskers come back from a 21-13 fourth-quarter deficit for a 30-21 win over the Gamecocks in Lincoln?

Both games against South Carolina went to the wire, triggering Jones to wave more than one caution flag in front of his alma mater as the Huskers take on the Top 10-ranked Gamecocks in the 2012 Capital One Bowl Jan. 2 in Orlando.

"The thing I remember most about South Carolina is how great their athletes were, and I'm not just talking about Sterling

Sharpe," Jones said. "Both years we played South Carolina, they were loaded with guys that had speed, agility and the ability to make big plays. You pretty much had to match 'em score for score, and they still have that ability today, even though they lost the country's most dangerous player (Marcus Latimore) with that knee injury."

If you haven't noticed, Jones still keeps up with college football in between moments of the highest-pressure job he's ever had — being a stay-at-home dad for his 18-month-old fraternal twin daughters, Esley and Xonia. "I come up for air when they go down for a nap," he said. "I'm very fortunate. My wife is the director of Consumer Affairs for ConAgra, and the two of us are a team to make this work. Oh my gosh, it's not

easy, because we also have a 12-year-old son (Quincy) and a 6-year-old son (Kaydon)."

That makes for some fast footwork for Jones, who once rushed for 248 yards at Colorado and 240 against Iowa State in that same 1987 season — 448 combined rushing yards and four touchdowns in those two games despite having only 41 combined rushing attempts.

Even though Jones is NU's No. 15 career rusher with 2,488 yards, his 6.25-yard per attempt average ranks fourth among the Huskers' top 20 career rushers.

"I was really glad to see Nebraska draw a team like South Carolina in the best bowl game outside the BCS," Jones said. "South Carolina is an SEC team that gets a lot of respect, and this is a great chance for Nebraska to gain some confidence and set the tone for next season."

Jones believes Nebraska

"I was really glad to see Nebraska draw a team like South Carolina in the best bowl game outside the BCS. South Carolina is an SEC team that gets a lot of respect, and this is a great chance for Nebraska to gain some confidence and set the tone for next season."

needs to end the 2011 season with a win over a Top 10 team. "I know it's a huge challenge for us," he said, "but I think in the next year or two, we need to take a couple more big steps to satisfy everyone inside the program and those watching it. We have such great history and such great tradition, and with guys like (Rex) Burkhead, (Lavonte) David and (Alfonzo) Dennard, I think it's time to show the SEC that the Big Ten can win a big game, too."



GAMES REMEMBERED

Surviving an upset

Bryan Siebler helps Husker avoid upset after Gamecocks take No. 3-ranked Nebraska to the wire

SENIOR SAFETY Bryan Siebler saved the day for the No. 3-ranked Huskers, intercepting a Todd Ellis pass at the Nebraska 10-yard line with 38 seconds remaining to end the fourth-quarter drama at South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium.

Nebraska took a three-point lead into the fourth quarter, which saw four lead changes. Harold Green scored his second of three touchdowns just under 4 minutes into the quarter, but the Huskers regained the lead less than 2 minutes later when wingback Dana Brinson ran 57 yards on a reverse.

Green scored again with 5 minutes remaining, and the Gamecocks were poised to pull the upset, only to lose a fumble at their own 20-yard line with 2 minutes to go.

Sophomore All-Big Eight defensive end Broderick Thomas forced the fumble and cornerback Brian Davis recovered to set up the winning touchdown, scored by tight end Todd Millikan with 1:26 remaining. Millikan and Taylor teamed up on a 73-yard pass play earlier in the game.

South Carolina, which went into the game with a 1-3 record (its only victory

against Western Carolina) and would finish 3-6-2, couldn't run the ball against the Huskers, but Ellis completed 26-of-38 passes for 286 yards, including 10 to junior wingback Sterling Sharpe for 98 of the yards.

Sharpe finished the season with 74 catches for 1,106 yards and 10 touchdowns and ranked seventh nationally in all-purpose yards, with 1,777.

Junior All-Big Eight I-back Keith Jones (pictured) led Nebraska in rushing with 103 yards on 26 carries.

NEBRASKA 27, SOUTH CAROLINA 24

Oct. 4, 1986 * Columbia, S.C.

Nebraska	10	3	0	14	--	27
South Carolina	0	7	3	14	--	24

(N) Keith Jones 5 run (Dale Klein kick)
 (N) Klein 37 FG
 (SC) Harold Green 56 pass Todd Ellis (Scott Hagler kick)
 (N) Klein 28 FG
 (SC) Hagler 38 FG
 (SC) Green 2 run (Hagler kick)
 (N) Dana Brinson 57 run (Klein kick)
 (SC) Green 7 run (Hagler kick)
 (N) Todd Millikan 11 pass Steve Taylor (Klein kick)

Attendance: 73,109

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Dana Brinson, a sophomore from Valdosta, Ga., was among the fastest Huskers, running the 40-yard dash in 4.37 seconds (electronic) during spring testing.

► Though sophomore Todd Millikan, a converted linebacker, caught only 11 passes in 1986, he led the Huskers in receiving yards (230) and touchdown receptions (4).

► South Carolina, a member of the ACC from 1953 to 1970, competed as an independent from 1971 through 1991. The Gamecocks began competing in the SEC in 1992.

► South Carolina defensive back Brad Edwards played nine seasons in the NFL and intercepted two passes in Super Bowl XXVI with the Washington Redskins.

► South Carolina's coach from 1983 to 1988 was former New York Giants halfback and wide receiver Joe Morrison, who died at age 51 following the 1988 season.

► The No. 2-ranked Huskers needed a 17-point fourth quarter to overcome a 21-13 deficit to defeat South Carolina 30-21 the next season at Memorial Stadium.

► Nebraska defeated South Carolina 28-6 at Memorial Stadium in 1964. The Gamecocks' quarterback was Dan Reeves, who went on to a distinguished NFL career as player and coach.



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

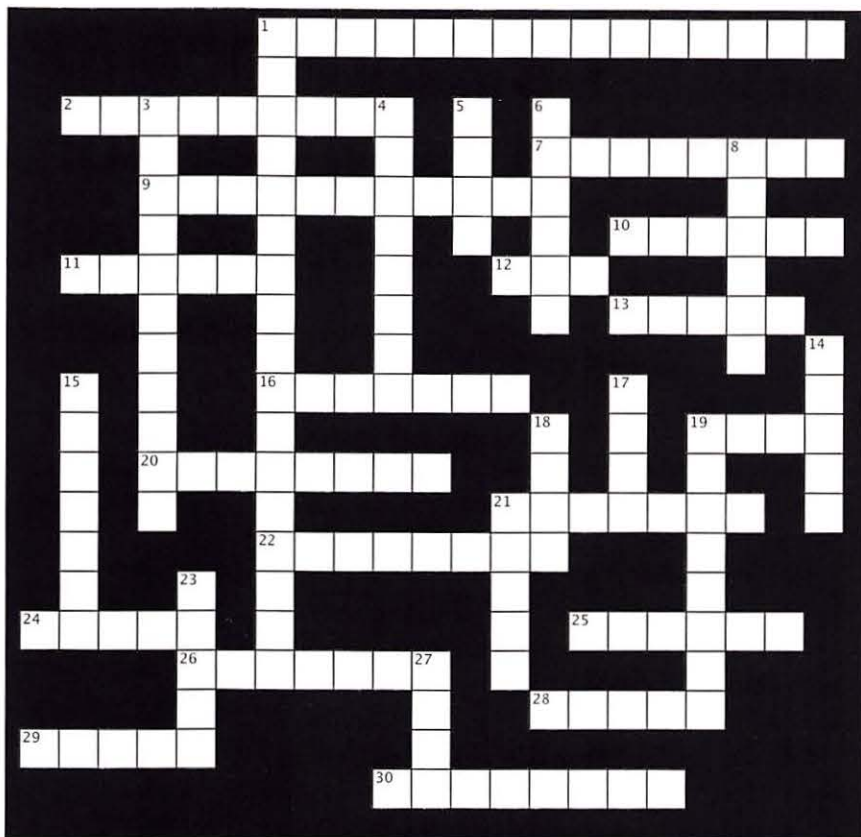
ACROSS

1. Carl Pelini's new school
2. South Carolina nickname
7. Last team to defeat South Carolina this season
9. 1983 Lombardi Award winner
10. Wears No. 9 (defense)
11. Ex-Husker center now with Detroit Lions
12. South Carolina's conference
13. First-team All-Big 10 punter
16. Wears No. 23 (defense)
19. Leading receiver vs. Iowa
20. Recruiting coordinator
21. First-team All-Big 10 defensive back
22. First-team All-Big 10 running back
24. First-team All-Big 10 kicker
25. South Carolina Heisman Trophy winner (1980)
26. City for Capital One Bowl
28. First-team All-Big 10 linebacker
29. Had first career interception vs. Iowa
30. South Carolina campus location

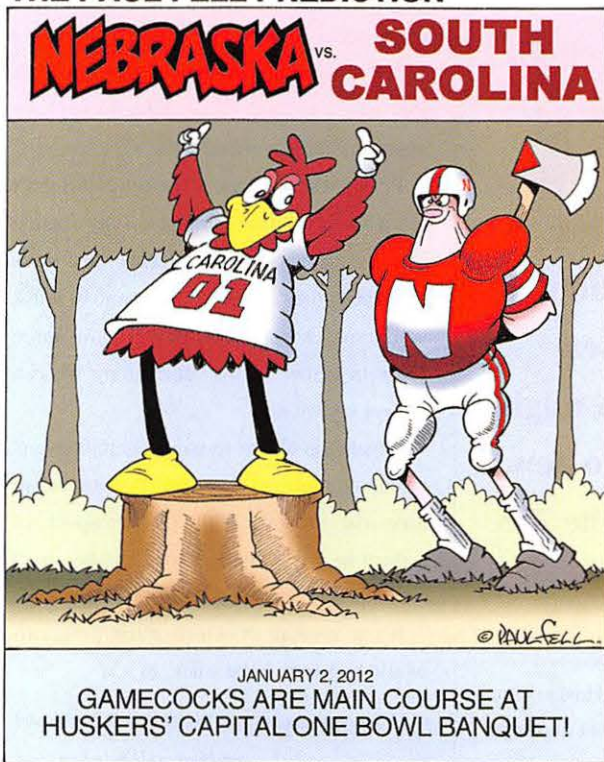
DOWN

1. Stadium for Capital One Bowl
3. Jermarcus Hardrick's home state
4. South Carolina coach
5. Ex-Husker running back now with Washington Redskins
6. South Carolina school color
8. Wears No. 71 (offense)
14. Former South Carolina coach now an ESPN analyst
15. South Carolina coach's former school
17. Network for Capital One Bowl
18. Caught touchdown pass vs. Iowa
19. Leading rusher vs. Iowa
21. AFCA first-team All-America linebacker
23. Wore retired No. 64
27. Tim Marlowe's home state

Answers will appear in the February issue.



THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



BRAIN BUSTER

BOWL TIME: Nebraska's all-time bowl record is 24-23, with 10 victories in its last 15 bowl games. The Huskers have losing records against teams from three conferences.

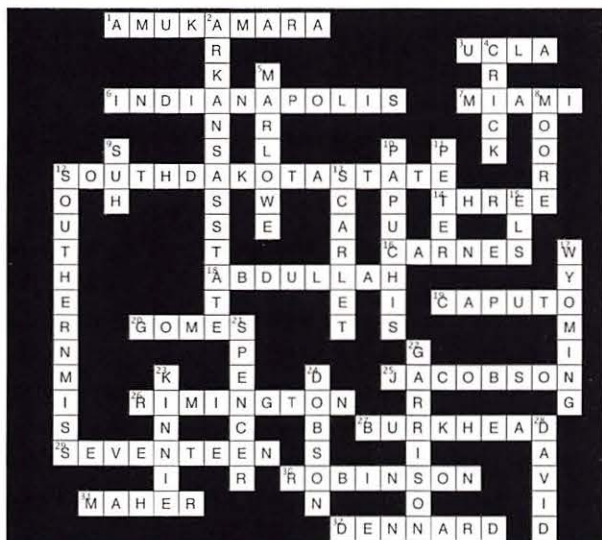
Can you name the conferences?

Hint: Consider the conferences in which the teams play now not at the time, so the Southwest Conference would not be included and neither would the Big Eight.

Answer will appear in our next issue

DECEMBER ANSWER: Scott Frost's mom, Carol, competed in the discus in the 1968 Olympics. His dad, Larry, was a Husker wingback.

DECEMBER SOLUTION



Winning 10 games for third straight season, no small feat

BY MIKE BABCOCK

One day last spring, Tom Osborne touched on several topics related to his 25 seasons as head coach at Nebraska, among them his considering a job at Colorado in 1978.

The Huskers were 9-2 at the time, with the losses forming bookends to the regular season. They had opened with a 20-3 loss to Alabama in Birmingham and finished with a 35-31 loss to Missouri at Memorial Stadium, one week after a 17-14 upset of No. 1-ranked Oklahoma.

Nebraska went from No. 4 to No. 2 following the victory over what might have been Barry Switzer's best team. If not for the Missouri loss, it almost certainly would have played Penn State, which moved to No. 1, in the Orange Bowl game, with a national championship on the line.

Instead, the Huskers played Oklahoma again in the Orange Bowl, while Penn State played Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, where the Crimson Tide earned the national title with a 14-7 victory.

Such was the Osborne-to-Colorado context.

Osborne discussed the opportunity with his assistants, and the consensus was, "we ought to at least look at it," he said. "We were getting some heat here."

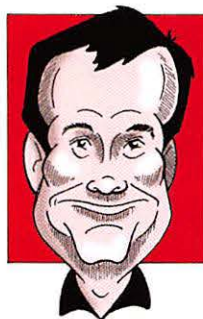
Heat despite the fact his record was 56-15-2 in six seasons, with five bowl games and a sixth to be played. His teams had won at least nine games in each of the seasons. But his record was 1-5 against Oklahoma, with a sixth loss coming in the Orange Bowl rematch.

"I realized that we were never more than a year away from being fired here," Osborne said, reiterating an attitude he often expressed during his career.

Nine-win seasons and bowl games weren't enough for a coach with problems beating Oklahoma, not after Bob Devaney-coached teams won two national championships in his final three seasons.

"Once you've been to the top, then that's the only standard," said Osborne.

Consider Bo Pelini's fourth season as head coach in such a context. The Huskers are 9-3 and preparing to play South Carolina in the Capital One Bowl, the most lucrative of the bowls outside those with a BCS preceding the names of their corporate sponsors.



Osborne's Hall of Fame coaching career wasn't a steady climb to three national championships in his final three seasons. It might seem so now, given the 255 victories...

During his news conference prior to the final regular-season game against Iowa, Pelini had to defend himself and his program for not getting to the Big Ten Championship game.

Did he realize there was a perception that the program was "stuck in neutral?"

"I don't care about the perception," he said. "The program has come a long way."

But did he understand why there might be such a perception?

"No, but I don't really care what's out there," he said. "What I concern myself with is where the program is right now. And I'm proud of where it is right now."

Pelini has said from the beginning that winning championships is the standard to which the program should be held. And so it should. But to suggest that the program is stuck in neutral because it hasn't won a championship in his four seasons is a reflection of Osborne's point.

"Once you've been on top, that's the only standard."

Osborne's Hall of Fame coaching career wasn't a steady climb to three national championships in his final three seasons. It might seem so now, given the 255 victories and .836 winning percentage. But "it wasn't that way," he said. "And it really isn't for anybody. There's nobody that wins 'em all."

Prior to the Iowa game, before Nebraska's ninth victory, senior fullback Tyler Legate was asked about the stability his class brought to the program. "We want 10 wins, you know," he said. "Getting 10 wins three years in a row . . . it's something we can always say we did."

Legate's goal was to win a championship, or championships. But a fourth consecutive nine-win season, with the prospect of a third in a row with 10 wins, is no small accomplishment.

It's a neutral in which most programs would be happy to be stuck. **N**

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